

Writing Assignment 3: Energy Alternatives

This assignment is quite different from the last two. This is a three-part assignment in which you will conduct independent research, work with a group, discuss the results of your work with the group, and write a paper. Carefully read each part of this assignment and note the deadlines for each portion.

Introduction

The purpose of this paper is three-fold:

1. To develop your ability to rationally evaluate a controversial issue;
2. To introduce you to conducting useful research on the internet;
3. To have you work with a group as part of developing your paper.

For this paper, you will examine pros and cons of different energy sources to meet our future needs. You will be assigned a specific, non-fossil fuel energy resource to research via the internet. You will exchange the information you gather with others researching the same energy source to help you answer question 1, below. Then, you will discuss your findings with people researching other energy sources to help you answer question 2. Based on your findings and that of your group members, you will write a 2 to 3-page paper. Use space and a half or double spacing. All style criteria for the first two writing assignments apply to this paper.

Your paper will address this primary question:

Is there a single energy source, a “silver bullet”, that will take us beyond the current fossil fuel era?

In answering this question, you will address these questions:

1. What are the pros and cons of the specific energy source you researched?
2. Can your energy source stand alone to meet future energy needs? Why or why not?
3. How would your energy resource fit into a diversified mix of non-fossil fuel energy sources to meet our energy needs?

Part 1. Informational Summary.

Due April 23; worth 5 points.

1. Using internet sources and Miller (2007), collect information on the pros and cons of the energy resource you were assigned. Locate and use at least **three** reputable internet sources that have the information you need. **Print out a page or two from each source to include with this summary.**
2. Produce an “informational summary” that paraphrases the relevant information from your internet sources and Miller (2007). See the attached format. Be sure to state the energy source you are addressing. Then, give the full URL of each source and the title of the article; under that title list the information using bullet points. Keep the

bullet points as brief and factual as possible. Use terms, numbers, and phrases. **Do not use full sentences for this summary.** List each source and the bullet points in succession. You should have at least four references, including Miller (2007). Attach the pages you copied from your web sites to the copy that you'll turn in to me.

3. Bring 8 copies of this informational summary (without the internet pages) on April 18 to give to your group members. Be prepared to discuss your findings.

Part 2. Paper Outline/Group Discussion

Due April 30; worth 5 points.

1. Using your sources and the new ones you now have, develop an outline for your paper, providing specific information and facts that address the two questions. Cite the sources of the facts in the outline and include a list of references cited in correct bibliographic form. You must use at least four citations.
2. You will join a new group in which each person has researched one of the other energy sources. Bring 6 copies of your outline and give each person a copy.
3. Spend time, as a group, discussing questions 2 and 3: Can your energy source stand alone to meet future energy needs? Why or why not? If not, how would it fit into a diversified mix of non-fossil fuel energy sources?

Part 3. Pro/Con Paper.

Due May 14; worth 10 points.

1. Using the information you have gathered through your research as well as the information collected by students researching the other four energy types, write a paper following the style requirements of the first two Writing Assignments.
2. Run your paper through TurnItIn.com (www.turnitin.com) and attach the "originality" report to your final paper. When you go to the site, create a "user profile" if you have not used the site before. If you have used Turnitin.com before, you should already have a user profile. Then, log on to the site. The class ID is 1824138 and the password is earthday. This should take you to the class page, or you may need to click on the class title, which is *EnvS 001 Spring 07*. You'll see the *Energy Assignment* bar. When you have finished writing your paper and believe you have avoided all plagiarism, click on *submit* to bring your paper into Turnitin.com. Follow the directions to bring in the file with your paper. Run the Originality Report. Your paper needs to be in the blue or green range to receive credit. If you are in a higher range, Turnitin will show you where your paper is having trouble. Revise your paper to avoid those problems and run the Originality Report again.

3. Use this format when citing an internet reference:

In-text citation example: (Public Interest Research Groups, 1999)

Full citation example:

Public Interest Research Groups. (1999). Why do we need a strong Endangered Species Act? Retrieved March 18, 2002 from the World Wide Web: <http://www.pirg.org/enviro/esa/fact.htm> .

Writing Assignment 3: Informational Summary Format

For your Informational Summary, begin by stating the topic you are researching. Next, give the citation for the first website you are using to answer the question. After that, list the bullet points of information you got from *that* website. Then, give the citation for the next website followed by the informational bullets you got from that site. Follow this format for each website you are using in your research. Be sure to put your name and date at the top of each page and number the pages of the summary.

Make 8 copies of your completed informational summary for class. To one of the copies, attach 1-2 pages from *each* of your websites. You will give that copy to me.

Here is a view of how your summary should be structured.

Jody Student
April 18, 2007

Writing Assignment 3: Informational Summary

Energy Source: Nuclear Energy

What are the pros and cons of this energy source and how would it fit into a mix of non-fossil fuel energy sources?

- Internet site 1: California Energy Commission. Year. Title.
 - Pro – Blah, blah
 - Con – Woof, woof

- Internet site 2: Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Year. Title.
 - Blah, blah
 - Woof, woof
 - Stand alone – blah, blah

- Internet site 3: Author. Year. Title.
 - Blah, blah
 - Woof, woof
 - Etc.

- Miller, G. Tyler. 2005. Living in the Environment
 - Blah, blah
 - Woof, woof