

Project Idea and Background (4% of grade)

By September 9, upload to canvas a more formal, 3 page (<800 words) **Project Idea and Background** for the project you would like to undertake in this course.

Required components of this document include:

- Statement of the question you wish to investigate. State why you are interested in this question.
- Briefly review the importance of this question as an environmental topic. Include basic factual information and relevant statistics to demonstrate its importance. You can use credible internet sources and peer-reviewed sources to provide this background.
- Efforts, if any, that have been made to address the problem in the past.
- State your thoughts on how you might collect data to address this question.
- References Cited or Bibliography section. Use the following sources for your work:
 - 1) Review relevant agency or other *credible* websites for current state of the problem at hand.
 - 2) Peer-reviewed literature search on your topic.
 - 3) For this assignment, you must complete your interview with at least one person who has expertise in this topic area. The interview must be verbal, either in person or by telephone. Please cite this interview as a personal communication.
 - 4) Include at least four sources, including your expert.

Please use the Council of Science Editors (formerly CBE) style of citation. See this website for information on citing journal articles and other sources:

<http://library.osu.edu/help/research-strategies/cite-references/cse/cse-style-guide-articles/> .