

The ENC 1102 Sustainable Research Essay

This assignment requires diligent work: originality, good organization, clear development, careful editing, and proper documentation. Please focus to limit discussion of your topic to 800 words to 1,200 (absolute maximum) words. Including the source list, this amounts to approximately four to five double-spaced pages typed in a readable font.

Consult your Handouts about the Precautionary Principle and the Websites provided on the Handouts to research one of the following five topics:

- **The incorporation of environmental safeguards into your professional/personal**
- **Your role as an advocate for or a guardian of an element, including identification of the obstacles to sustainability**
- **Your diagnosis of the greatest threat to you element— Examples: pollution, climate changes, offshore oil drilling—and your assessment of sustainability**
- **A description of how a natural system functions and the impact of humans on that system**
- **A projection of how the Precautionary Principle applies to your major or area of expertise**

In addition to the usual requirements of a good essay (See pages 4 and 7 of your Study Guide & Syllabus), this assignment calls for the incorporation of information taken from outside sources and the proper citation of this information whenever it appears in your essay. The source must appear correctly entered on the Source page of your paper. The essay must include reference to at least one source from the class Handouts. Other sources may include books, magazines, newspapers, the Internet, and an editing source. Dictionaries and the Bible do not count toward your required six (6) sources. If you're not sure if you have a valid source, ask me.

Begin by carefully considering your essay. Note that, although abstract, the topic demands a personal focus, a first-person approach. You use yourself as your primary source: presenting your views and experiences, telling your story, first. A focus or hypothesis should begin to emerge for your essay. You will need to narrow your subject to highlight personal concerns, observations, and experiences. When satisfied with your focus and first-hand evidence, write the first draft of your paper.

Next, you will reinforce your position with research, the selection from your Handouts and outside sources. Smoothly incorporate the views of others (i.e., the required* sources you find in the library or on the Internet) in support or clarification of your project and position.

Use your Handbook and the library to help locate theme sources. Ask the reference librarians for assistance.

When you have written this draft as well as you can and have located **six (6) possible sources** for support, pair up with a classmate to get a "first read" and editing assistance.

After you've written, edited, and revised the first draft of your paper; after

you have discussed your project and research strategy with an editor, and after you **have six (6) solid sources**, begin incorporating your reference material into your paper. Remember: the material you cite must reinforce or extend the points you have already made in your draft. Incorporate the excerpts--the quotes and paraphrases--to "fit" the context and flow naturally into your paper.

Review the skillful incorporation of quotations in your Handbook sample papers. Do not insert references merely as padding—and don't quote the obvious. The finished paper, 800 to 1,200 words, should contain no more than 20 percent of its total word count from secondary sources (quotes and paraphrases).

Now, write the essay again, this time including your research. Document the information properly, according to the MLA principles presented in your Handbook. Give your essay a title.

Format & Grading

Pages 396-397 of your literature text and page 3 of your Study Guide & Syllabus provide specific information to help you format this assignment. Note: You will substitute Sources for Works Cited at the top center of your last page.

To emphasize points that may result in lost points for you:

- You must type this paper, neatly, in a readable 10 or 12 point type (no light print and no cursive, no exotic fonts, please).
- You do not need a cover page.
- Leave one inch margins on both sides of the page, as well as at the top and bottom. I need this space for comments and editing suggestions.
- Double-space.
- Do not put the paper in a folder. Staple it together.

I will use the grading guidelines on page 7 of your Study Guide & Syllabus.

NOTE WELL: If you have trouble with any of part of this research assignment, please contact me for clarification.