

Professor Barbara Bonallo

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 **Fostering Behavior Change for Sustainability** and the Websites provided on the Handouts to research and to formulate a study related to one of the following topics:

- **The incorporation of environmental safeguards into your professional/personal life**
- **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 your element—such as pollution, climate change, offshore oil drilling—and your advocacy for a practice to ensure sustainability**
- **A projection of how changing behaviors related to your area of Sustainability applies to your area of expertise (your major or career choice)**

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 Handouts and 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, experiences, and projections about sustainability. 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 outlined, 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.

I encourage you to use a variety of source material, including,

- Print sources (limited to two)
- Internet Sources (limited to two)
- Interviews (limited to two)
- Non-print sources (CD, DVD, television program, movie (limited to two))

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's sample MLA 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

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

REMEMBER:

Your presentation of a **Sustainable Strategy/Practice**, one you intend to implement—in home, around the neighborhood, or at work should extend the theme you choose for the Research project. Keep this follow-up assignment in mind while researching your paper.