

Marine Biology 4th Quarter Project: Marine Issues Near You

DUE DATE: Tues May 5, 2009

Your 4th Quarter Project will involve going out into the surrounding communities and finding a marine environmental issue that is important to you. This issue can deal with a variety of topics including, but not limited to:

- Fisheries
- Coastal development
- Pollution
- Death of aquatic organisms

The issue must be local (try to keep it within the state of South Carolina). For your project, you will be working with a partner to prepare an overview of the issue and then your opinion and solution to the issue. The project will contain two main components:

- 1-2 page editorial piece
- A nightly news exposé

In Detail:

- Find local news sources describing a marine issue. Local town newspapers and other publications are a great resource. These sources will describe the issue from a local standpoint. It should also contain a good amount of detail and will help you with the other parts of your project.
- Relate the local issue to a national or global one. Show the connections between what is happening in this state and around the world. The generalized issues that we are facing in South Carolina often parallel ones faced in places on the other side of the world. What are the differences and similarities between local issues and the global ones? How are the global situations being handled?
- Contact and interview at least ONE side of the debate or issue. The more people you talk to, the better your background information will be. Government officials, campaign organizers and nearby residents are a great place to start. Get out there and simply talk to people. See what they have to say on the issue. Do you agree with them? Why do they support a certain point of view?
- Come up with a viable solution to the problem. After learning all of this background information (both local and global) and talking to people facing the issue, determine the best course of action. What steps would you take to solve the crisis? How did you come up with this idea? Was it used somewhere else? What is the likelihood that your plan will succeed? Does anyone “lose” in your solution plans?
- Write a 1-2 page editorial piece on your issue. Editorials are basically opinion pieces written by the editors of a newspaper. The author must learn extensively about the issue and then write his or her opinion about it. The article is then published in a newspaper. Your editorial piece should cover the above mentioned components and look like an article from a newspaper. The page should contain the title of the newspaper, the article

title, authors, date, and page numbers. Take a look at a newspaper to get an idea of what the editorial should look like.

- Unlike true editorials, your editorial will have a works cited page attached to it. You have been given MLA format sheets in the past. The internet is a great place to find help if you need it, or you can come see me.
- In addition, the attached grading rubrics must be handed in with your editorial piece. Missing grading rubrics will result in lost points. There are two grading rubrics: the one where you grade your partner and the one where I grade you.
- Through a news exposé you are going to reveal the concerns surrounding the issue and your solution. You can either tape a news program or interview or perform it during the class period. The newscast should last between 5 to 7 minutes and should contain the information discussed above. If you decide to tape it ahead of time, you must tell me what electronic equipment is needed to view it.

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Individual Grading Rubric

Editorial piece

Local new source information	/10
Related to global issues	/10
Local interview	/10
Solution to problem	/10
Works Cited	/10
Neatness and creativity	/10

Nightly News Exposé

Background information	/10
Related to global issues	/10
Local interview	/10
Solution to problem	/10
Participation and creativity	/10

TOTAL /110

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Group Member Participation

Write in the names of your group members. Do NOT include yourself. If you believe they deserve to have points deducted from their grades, please list how many points should be deducted and why you believe this. Be specific.

1. _____ deserves _____ points deducted
from their grade because _____

2. _____ deserves _____ points deducted
from their grade because _____

