TOPICS and GUIDELINES for the SECOND SHORT PAPER

THE ASSIGNMENT

The last short paper assignment is due on December 1, 2004. Like the first short paper assignment, it should also be 4-6 pages of text, double-spaced, not including photographs, charts, graphics, etc., that students may opt to include (but are not required). Please also add a page of references and make sure to cite these within the text of your paper. As with all written work, attention will be given to spelling, grammar and paper organization.

You should write about a class-sponsored or independent field trip, a seminar, lecture, conference, workshop, or other event concerning environmental issues. Topics should pertain to the major themes of the course during the second half of the semester. This includes issues related to the Earth's atmosphere, air pollution sources, related human health effects, related legislation, regulation, agreements and climate change. However, it is also possible to pursue topics related to a range of other environmental issues, with prior approval.

Look for email newsletters to follow in the next week or more that will contain information about a range of events that students can pursue as paper topics. If you choose from any of the events announced in a class newsletter, you do not need advanced approval for your paper topic.

However, students thinking about pursuing other events or independent topics must send an email to teaching assistant Barbara Blanchard by November 10th with a BRIEF outline of your ideas and/or a BRIEF description of the event you plan to attend, so that we can assure that you are pursuing appropriate topics.

GUIDELINES for WRITING YOUR SECOND PAPER

The three most popular topics typically selected by students for this paper include: The Urban Ark Tour, Global Climate Change, and Air Quality and Pollution (at specific city or state locations). Students writing on these topics should consider the following:

A. Urban Ark:
- Discuss sustainable living in an urban context
- Summary of homeowner goals and objectives
- Description of modifications made to the site
- Description of how the modifications work to achieve goals
- Discussion of the pros/cons of site modifications
- Consideration of how these traditional and alternative solutions compare to one another (efficiency, cost savings, etc.)
- Reasons why other alternative solutions could not be implemented on site
- Consideration of how solutions might be able to be used on a broader scale (i.e. communities, businesses, etc.)

B. Global Climate Change
- Definition of climate change
- Discussion of contributing factors
- Overview of scientific research findings
- Summarize arguments resulting from different scientific interpretations
- Summary of future impacts and projections
- Discuss environmental management approaches to mitigation (new or different operations, technology, policy, social values, economic support systems, educational programs, etc).

C. Air Quality and Pollution
- Description of physical geographic region, topography & related conditions
- Overview of local and historic factors causing pollution
- Overview of scientific research findings and measurements
- Impacts to human and ecosystem health
- Discuss environmental management approaches to mitigation (new or different operations, technology, policy, social values, economic support systems, educational programs, etc).

REMEMBER !!
No matter the topic you select, remember that the main theme of this course is Environmental Management. Although it is important to grasp the scientific methods and logic used to establish evidence of environmental impacts, this course aims that you stretch beyond the scientific facts and even beyond the opposing arguments that claim to determine the extent of impacts in order to explore SOLUTIONS of all different orders of magnitude. Your paper should reflect your understanding of the science that frames the problem, the arguments and discussion around the problem, and how to solve the problem, whatever the problem might be! Be as creative as you can to propose solutions. For more specific advice about your paper topic, email teaching assistant Barbara Blanchard.

Don't forget to look for a listing of local events to follow soon!

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