

Final Research paper:

For your final group research project, you will critically examine natural resources conservation or environmental issue from various perspectives. To simplify this sentence in a question – ask yourself: *What is the most important idea that you are trying to convey to your reader/ audience regarding the geography of resource conservation or the issue under investigation?*

During the last 3 weeks of the semester or so, your group will have visual version presentation of your research paper. Briefly, the presentation should include: a short intro, your controlling idea, a brief description of the methods, tables and/or graphs related to your findings, and an interpretation of your data. You will be given approx. 10-15 minutes depending on the number of the groups that will be formed and the time that we will be allocated during those assigned weeks for the presentation. Presenting a 15-page research paper in 10 minutes or so can be tricky, however, you will have the opportunity to refine the information down to few meaningful bullets including diagrams, tables, graphs, etc. among many other things that will make your presentation to look professional. Your creative ideas from all group members that you think would inspire your audience will be needed as you plan your PowerPoint presentation slides.

Writing a strong researched paper requires the ability to synthesize multiple sources when you conduct your research. Synthesizing requires critical reading and thinking in order to compare different sources, by highlighting similarities, differences, and connections. Then your analysis and synthesis, will help you to develop new ideas based on interpretations of other evidence or arguments from your research regarding a conservation topic that you would like to explore. Remember, a common practice and example in academic writing is by providing the topic sentence. Then the topic should provide the main idea each of a scholarly paragraph level as building blocks of the paper with evidence from multiple sources, and analysis of those multiple sources together. As you develop these paragraphs, each paragraph must be related to that central idea of the research paper.

Finally, you should be able to connect ideas across paragraphs or sections to create a new narrative, coherent whole story that is clearly related to the thesis statement/controlling idea of the research paper.

The evaluation of this paper will depend heavily on the depth of your research and ability to link class concepts to real world of conservation and environment operations. Start thinking about how you will combine elements of reliable sources that will help you to support your research paper. Writing this paper will be a guided process through small assignments that will lead to the final paper. For the time being, I would like you to pay attention to the feedback that you will receive from your Instructor and GTA through the written assignments that you will be submitting from time to time during the semester.

Suggested Research Project outline [Please follow the instructions provided in this document]

For your research paper, you can develop your own outline, however, I have provided a template that can be used as a guideline for a general structure of your research paper.

Title page (1 point)

Full title of the research paper

- Title clearly indicates a conservation concept of natural resources and environment.
 - It should be an effective title that includes descriptive terms and words/phrases that accurately highlight the main theme of the paper.
 - For example, “**Deforestation**” is not a descriptive title. “**Environmental**

concerns of deforestation in Ecuador” is a descriptive topic.

- Your full name(s)
- Name of the Course
- Name of the Instructor
- Date of submission

Abstract (2 points)

- The title page should be followed by an abstract consisting of no more than 300 words.
- The abstract should be a concise summary of the work containing essential concepts, emergent findings, and conclusion.
- Do not write the abstract in the first person and no footnotes or references are needed in the abstract.
 - On the same page of your abstract, you should start your “Introduction” section.

Introduction (12 points) – Please use Headings and Sub-headings

- Background of the study
 - As you are writing the background of your research topic, try to use specific facts, evidence, paraphrases, and always identify your sources.
 - If you want to use quotations – let your reader know why it is very important for the reader to know about this author. Use quotations sparsely.
 - You can expand, develop, support, and/or illustrate your main ideas from the points/ideas that you will get from your sources. Therefore, it’s good idea to have a plan... know which sources align with your overall research theme.
- Statement of the problem
 - The study examines.....
 - Carefully formulate your thesis or problem statement.
 - Know what point(s) you are trying to prove.
- Identify the Purpose of the study
 - The purpose of this research study is
- Significance of the study
 - This project work is designed to provide
- Research questions
 - In this course of study, the following research questions are posed.....
 - Choose a question that is neither too broad (i.e. it implies that the researcher will cover many tactics or too narrow (i.e. can be answered with a simple statistic).

Methodology and procedure of study (5 points)

- Methodology section is crucial for any type of research project because an unreliable method produces unreliable results
- Think about the ways in which you processed the data and the procedures you used to analyze that data/information.
 - *How was the data/information collected or generated?*
 - Readers need to know how the data/information was obtained
 - *And, how was it synthesized or analyzed?*
 - Explain how you intend to analyze synthesize your results

- Team member roles - Assign tasks to team members |
What was the role of each member of your group for your research project?

Findings (10 points)

- In this section you will synthesize the material and present your findings.
- To synthesize information is much more than simply reporting – this means making connections or putting things together.
- You should be able to combine clearly and coherently ideas obtained from your research with your theses/ideas or argument in a meaningful way.
 - *Remember, you want to expand the material you have synthesized to a new synthesis.*
- Provide a systematic description of your results, highlighting for the reader observations that are most relevant to the topic under investigation.
 - *These are important findings you discovered through a process of reviewing appropriate literature and gathering data.*
 - *How does the finding demonstrate a promising trend connected to the problem under investigation?*
- You can organize your main findings by subtopics or subheadings
- Do not use phrases that are vague or non-specific.
- Be sure to properly label any non-textual elements in your paper.
- How do you support your findings?
- Organize your findings as you would like to tell a story.

Recommendations (5 points)

Finally, your group should include a well-thought-out set of recommendations

- *Formulate a critical suggestion regarding the best course of action in a certain situation. You must show how your results support them (what are the alternative that is best supported by the study?)*
- *If the preferred alternative(s) is/ are implemented, what additional research might be needed?*
- *The reason for recommending the alternatives*
- Synthesize your findings to generate composite knowledge.

Limitations of Study (5 points)

- This should be a short section of your research paper. Here are some tips that you can use as you develop this section.
- There is no perfect research, each study has its flaws and negative sides. Identify and acknowledge your study's limitations than the limitations to be identified by the audience/reader.
- Constructively address sources of error and methodological difficulties you encountered during the research and how they were resolved. This is an opportunity for you to make suggestions further research if any. Identifying flaws and limitations give you a chance to continue and develop your studies.
- By mentioning study limitations, this will demonstrate your skills of critical analysis.
- Once again, do not be shy to talk about your limitations and how your studies were influenced by these limits.

Implications and Conclusions (5 points)

- This brief section should summarize what you learned, and explain what you want the reader to learn from your paper [What is the take-home message from your paper?]
- You should attempt to bring together all the issues of your research paper and link back to the aim and objectives of the study outlined in your Introduction.
- Try to be original when writing this section – remember conclusion is the most important part of your paper.

References (5 Points)

- Students will properly cite all research referenced in APA format. For details check the APA document posted through the Blackboard. Below are some examples of APA References:
- A minimum of 10 References - use credible sources. No citation should include [nd (no date), etc.]
- Remember, any material that will be used for your research and it's not yours needs to be correctly cited in the text and direct your reader to more complete information about your sources on the Reference Section/Page.

*The final paper will be 15 pages, double spaced with Font size of 12. This doesn't include cover page and reference section. Points will be deducted accordingly for not following instructions outlined above! Please consult your Instructor and GTA if you need additional clarification. **Additional discussion about this paper will be discussed in class.***

Examples of proper APA (American Psychological Association) format for LITERATURE CITED:

Journal Article: Adelgid, B. W. (1999). Killing Fraser first in the Smoky Mountains. *Journal of Exotics and Introduced Species*. 1 (15), 13-15.

Book: Boar, E. W. (1993). *Upsetting the balance of the Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge*. (3rd ed.). London: Island Press.

Plagiarism

- Plagiarism means using the exact words, opinions, or factual information from another source without giving that source credit.
- Plagiarism of any sort during your writing process is prohibited. For this purpose, your paper will pass through the SafeAssign software i.e. plagiarism software.

Important Additional Notes

Read the assignment (the prompt) as soon as you get it. Make sure to reread it before you start writing. And Read it critically!

Your assignment should be well written and grammatically correct.

See specific criteria below:

- Margins no more than 1 inch on any side.
- Double Spacing
- Text font used should be no bigger than 12 points (note, your title can be 14 point).
- All citations should be in APA style – check APA document through the Blackboard
- Include consistent main headings. If you prefer to **BOLD**, your headings it has to be consistent throughout.
- All pages must be numbered in one continuous sequence
- Page numbers shall be located centrally at the bottom of the page.
- Avoid paragraphs that are too short – made of few sentences.
- Use appropriate format, correct grammar, and spelling, and demonstrate logical, concise organization of content
- Use universal language and avoid jargon.

Tips for Searching Credible Sources

- Start with a trustworthy source/scholarly source material
- In a search, every word matter, and the order of the words matter. Be thoughtful when choosing your search terms.
- Check the website domain to help determine validity. Universities (.edu), government agencies (.gov)
- As you are working on your research, its good practice to do the following:
 - taking notes, paraphrasing, and quoting, documenting sources (by correctly documenting, you establish your credibility as a writer and researcher).
- Don't be afraid to approach a Librarian – they can be instrumental in your research project.
- Building the Essay Draft
- Revising and Proofreading the Draft
- Label all headings/subheadings.

Points will be deducted for not following the instructions

References: <https://pro-academic-writers.com/blog/limitations-in-research>].

