

## Paper 1: Evaluating Environmental Actions

The media offers a lot of advice about how to be green, but how does a big organization, such as UCSD, decide what environmental strategies to adopt? Suppose that you have a \$5 million budget to invest in an environmental action for UCSD, and you are considering the following options:

- Install a gray water system to make use of recycled water.
- Improve conservation by increasing insulation in student housing and installing high efficiency windows.
- Install a rooftop solar photovoltaic electrical system.
- Invest the funding in improved public transportation.
- Change campus lighting to high-efficiency LED systems.

Choose one of these options to explore in greater detail. (Please do not try to compare multiple options.) In a well researched paper, using careful citations, explain the financial and environmental costs and benefits of the environmental strategy that you have chosen, evaluate how many people it will serve, and consider the extent to which the action will make the campus more environmental. Evaluate whether (and how) you think the environmental action should be implemented.

### Guidelines for the Paper:

Your paper should be 750-1000 words (3-4 double-spaced pages). A one-grade penalty will be assessed for papers that are not within the word-count guidelines. Your bibliography will not be considered as part of your word count.

Many of the solutions to environmental problems are extremely controversial. We are looking for evidence-based approaches to environmental problems. This means that you should take a close look at published information (such as peer-reviewed scientific papers and government documents), before deciding on a position. You should be able to back up your position with a preponderance of evidence—you can't just cherry-pick the facts to suit a personal preference.

Your paper should take the following form:

- Introduction
  - A brief description of the environmental action that you are studying.
  - A clear (one-sentence) statement of your position.
- Background
  - Necessary background information.
  - Unbiased discussion of any controversies, including motivations behind opposing views.
- Analysis
  - Evidence-based evaluation of environmental action.
- Conclusion

- Restatement of your thesis.
- Synthesis of your arguments.

You should use at least four reputable, independent references, and they should be included in a bibliography and cited within the text. We will allow any standard method of scholarly citation. If you are unsure what to do, then use the Chicago/Turabian Documentation method, which is nicely discussed in a web site produced by the University of Wisconsin writing center. See the web page for this paper for links.

### **Schedule and Due Dates:**

- March 31: Assign paper and provide schedule.
- April 5/6: Preliminary paper plan due in discussion section. This should include (a) Topic sentence, (b) brief summary of issues associated with chosen environmental strategy, (c) 2 sources. (175 words maximum for the topic sentence and statement of position. During discussion section we will provide guidance on researching the paper and making sure that what you turn in matches our expectations. Feedback on your preliminary paper plans will be returned to you in discussion section April 12/13, but continue to work on your papers. If you are unsure about your approach, contact your TA for comment.
- April 21: Paper due to Turnitin.com by 9:30 am. Please bring a hard copy to class. No late papers will be accepted. If you have extenuating circumstances that would justify an extension, please negotiate this with your TA in advance of the deadline.