



ENV222

Interdisciplinary

► Perspectives in the Environment

Assignment 3

Climate Change Research/Policy Paper

Agenda

Assignment Format & Goals

Assignment Structure

Assignment Evaluation

Assignment Tips & Resources

Assignment Format

5 pages

1.5 spacing, 1 inch margins, 12 pt font, Times New Roman

Include footnotes/endnotes/in-text citation and bibliography/works cited

Find the outline on Quercus

Files → #3 assignment33- guidance and instruction notes

Assignment Goals

- 1) Further explore the points from the assignment 2 memorandum
- 2) Using the Sustainable Development Goals as a framework, develop an interdisciplinary perspective
- 3) Reflect on and integrate personal action

Assignment Goals

For your chosen G20 country select one of the following sectors to focus on:

- Poverty
- Food and water security
- Health and nutrition
- Gender equality
- Energy
- Economics
- Conservation
- Conflict
- Resilience

If you want to write about a different sector, please email your TA and ask if it fits within the guidelines

Assignment Goals

Outline the country-specific interrelationships with your chosen sector in the context of climate change/sustainability

Based on your research develop 2 new goals and targets, each with 2-3 indicators for how to achieve them

Discuss how your research contributes to the goals and the potential for local action

What is a Research Paper?

“A research paper is **not simply an informed summary** of a topic by means of primary and secondary sources. It is neither a book report nor an opinion piece nor an expository essay consisting solely of one's interpretation of a text nor an overview of a particular topic. Instead, it is a genre that requires one to spend time investigating and evaluating sources with the intent to offer interpretations of the texts, and not unconscious regurgitations of those sources. **The goal of a research paper is not to inform the reader what others have to say about a topic, but to draw on what others have to say about a topic and engage the sources in order to thoughtfully offer a unique perspective on the issue at hand.**”

From:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/common_writing_assignments/research_papers/genre_and_the_research_paper.html

What is a Research Paper?

Gathering, synthesizing, and citing sources to support the thesis statement

Thesis statement: a 1-2 sentence statement that outlines the purpose of the assignment and presents an arguable claim

- Addresses the why/how and not just what/who/where/when
- Include the strategy for proving the claim

For Assignment 3, focus on persuading the audience to accept your proposed goals and indicators.

Assignment 3 Structure

Abstract

Introduction

Current Scientific Understanding

Current Policy Approaches and Instruments

Suggested Goals and Indicators

Personal Statement of intent

Conclusion

Abstract

Summary of the entire assignment (~6-8 sentences)

Include:

- Why you are writing the assignment
- Some of the background research
- Details of suggested goals & indicators
- Proposed personal actions
- Any conclusions you can draw

Introduction

Introduce the issue

Provide the urgency-- why is this important?

Summarize the sections & arguments to be presented

Thesis statement

Body Paragraphs: Current Research & Policy

Define the sector that you are writing about

Frame it in the context of your country

Make links with your sector and sustainability/climate change

Include current scientific research

Include current policy

Body Paragraphs: Suggested Goals and Indicators

Outline and describe:

- 1) 2 new goals and targets based on the research findings
- 2) 2 to 3 indicators designed to meet the two goals and targets

13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

13.3.1 Number of countries that have integrated mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning into primary, secondary and tertiary curricula

13.3.2 Number of countries that have communicated the strengthening of institutional, systemic and individual capacity-building to implement adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer, and development actions

Body Paragraphs: Personal Statement of Intent

Discuss:

- 1) How the research contributes to the goals suggested
- 2) Your own potential for taking action at a local scale

This can be by:

- 1) Influencing policy
- 2) Behaviour change
- 3) Promoting a sustainable development goal
- 4) Anything else you can think of!

Conclusion

Re-state the thesis statement

Summarize all of the presented arguments showing how you proved your thesis statement

Do not introduce new points or analysis!

Evaluation

Strength of arguments (45%) - Has the student addressed the assignment correctly?; Is there strong evidence of detailed science & policy research?; Are the suggested goals & indicators reasonable?; Do they have a considered and thoughtful personal reflection?; Have they accurately captured interdisciplinary nature of SDG13?; are there glaring omissions in the logic or evidence used?

Structure (30%) - Is there a reasonable structure or layout to the paper and its arguments?; does the introduction section provide a sense of what is to be expected and what will be argued?; does the concluding section accurately capture the key points of the essay?; are the current research & policy, goals & indicators and personal reflection sections clearly organized?

Execution (15%) - Is the writing clear and cogent?; is the referencing system consistent?; are quality sources used?

Grammar and spelling (10%) - are there any grammar and spelling mistakes?; is appropriately formal language used?

Assignment Tips

Use subheadings for clear organization

Include topic sentences to organize paragraphs

Fit the assignment within 5 pages

- Use paraphrasing, summarizing & synthesizing to condense your writing

Cite all your sources!!!

***Review the other tutorial 4 modules

Helpful Resources

Research Essays

<https://utsc.utoronto.ca/twc/types-writing>

<https://utm.library.utoronto.ca/research/writing>

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/common_writing_assignments/research_papers/index.html

Abstracts

<https://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/types-of-writing/abstract/>

Questions?

Reach out to your TAs!

Online office hours on Quercus

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