

HLT 3306 – ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Instructions for Essay #2

PURPOSE:

This writing assignment will give students an opportunity to apply course content into their community (personal environment).

GOALS:

The primary goal of the assignment is to develop and support an explanation of environment health conditions in the student's personal environment.

Students will perform direct observations, research, and describe environmental health conditions through the use of an assessment tool, Photovoice, and a written document.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ASSIGNMENT:

There are three components to the essay: 1) an Environmental Health Community Assessment; 2) use of Photovoice to express your view of environmental health issues; and 3) a written description of your community's environmental health status.

Environmental Health Community Assessment (10 points)
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You will conduct an assessment of your community's health condition. The template for this assignment has been uploaded to Blackboard. To conduct the assessment in your community, you may print out the tool and make hand-written notes. However, **you must type in your responses** on the document when you prepare your final document. Hand-written, scanned images will not be accepted.

Make sure you put the date and time of your assessment along with the location (street name and major intersections/cross streets). Here is an example:

- Date of assessment: March 5, 2019
- Time of assessment: 2:07 pm
- Location: Cullen Blvd between Elgin St and Wheeler St

The assessment tool has sections regarding air, water, land, waste, and safety. Read each question and respond by checking the Yes or No box. If you respond yes, include the appropriate number next to the check (✓) or "X." Make comments only if necessary. Here is an example of a completed item in the "Air" section of the tool:

	YES/#	NO	COMMENTS
Smoke stacks* visible?		X	Residential street/no commercial buildings

*See the image in the "Air" section of the tool for an example of a smoke stack

Photovoice – Your View of Your Environment (10 points)

This component of the assignment is an abbreviated version of a tool called Photovoice. A description of Photovoice as written by “Community Tool Box” is given below:

Photovoice is a process in which people – usually those with limited power due to poverty, language barriers, race, class, ethnicity, gender, culture, or other circumstances – use video and/or photo images to capture aspects of their environment and experiences and share them with others.

Photovoice has three main goals:

- To help those who are often unheard gain a voice, enabling them to record and reflect on their experiences and their communities’ conditions, both positive and negative.
- To encourage critical consciousness. Through choosing, discussing, and reflecting on the subjects of their photographs, the photographers can come to a clearer understanding of their circumstances and the economic, social, psychological, and political forces that shape them.
- To bring about change that will improve conditions and enhance lives by reaching and influencing policy makers.

This YouTube video also provides a good description of what the complete Photovoice process looks like: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyXnnOlvgOM>

For the purpose of this assignment, **you will take three (3) pictures of your environment** that express your feelings about the “health” of your community. The pictures can show either side of the “health” of your community – areas that are healthy and/or unhealthy in the areas dealing with air, water, land, waste, and/or safety.

Requirements for images:

- ✓ The three (3) images can be captured using a camera or any mobile device with a camera feature.
- ✓ The images do not have to be high-quality or professional-grade photos, but they must be clear and show what you will describe in the written portion of the assignment.
- ✓ **At least one** of the images must be a selfie or a picture of you in your community.
- ✓ All three images must be re-sized to fit on ONE page (this will help keep the size of the document small enough to upload to Blackboard).

Written Description

Your written description should introduce your community including a brief history and basic demographic information. Descriptors like population, average age of residents, SES, residential and commercial info are usually found on the city and/or county website. You should also provide an overview of the environmental health issues you addressed in your Photovoice images. Body

paragraphs should go into detail about each image and what is “SHOWeD” (the Photovoice discussion mnemonic):

- what do you **S**ee here?
 - what is really **H**appening?
 - how does this relate to **O**ur lives?
 - **W**hy does this problem or strength **e**xist?
 - what can we **D**o about it? (*Conclusion*)
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- ✓ The written description must be at least two (2) full pages and no more than three (3) pages from introduction to conclusion.
 - ✓ In addition to references to the textbook chapters, your written description must include supporting details from at least two (2) additional primary-source references (i.e. peer-reviewed journals or scholarly books). **The only acceptable websites are official government websites.**
 - ✓ **All references must be properly cited and listed on the references page.** Refer to American Psychological Association (APA), 6th edition manual and/or visit the OWL website for more information about how to use APA formatting:
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

OTHER FORMATTING INSTRUCTIONS:

- ✓ Your final product must be formatted using double-spacing, a size 12 font (Times New Roman or Cambria), a one-inch page margin (on all sides), and it must include the following (in this order):
 - Title page in APA format for HLT 3306 (as detailed in the “tips” video)
 - **Completed** Environmental Health Community Assessment tool
 - Three (3) Photovoice images (make sure all 3 pictures fit on one page)
 - A written document with an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion (APA format; no running head required; minimum 2 pages & maximum 3 pages).
 - References page (in APA format)

EVALUATION RUBRIC:

The assignment is worth 50 points. The evaluation rubric below outlines the grading criteria.

CRITERION	D	C	B	A
Community Assessment Tool (10 points)	Tool not completed	Handwritten and incomplete	Typed but incomplete	Typed and all items have responses
Photovoice Images (10 points)	One or two photos included, but student is not pictured	Included two (2) photos; student pictured in at least one photo	Included three (3), but student is not pictured	Included three photos and student is pictured in at least one photo
APA Formatting (5 points)	4 or more points of information are	2-3 points of information are missing/incorrect	One point of information is missing/incorrect	All APA in-text citations and references are

	missing/incorrect from in-text citations and/or references	from in-text citations and/or references	from in-text citations and/or references	included in their entirety; direct quotes are in quotes and cited properly; paraphrases are cited properly
Spelling and Grammar (5 points)	5 or more spelling and/or grammar errors	3-4 spelling and/or grammar errors	1-2 spelling and/or grammar errors	No spelling or grammar errors
Introduction (5 points)	Very poor writing	Unclear or underdeveloped introduction	Clear writing, but lacking purpose of the paper	Clear introduction that states the purpose of the paper
Discussion of Photovoice images (10 points)	Failed to describe the environmental health factors depicted in the image(s) as outlined in instructions	Described the environmental health factors depicted in the image(s) but did not follow instructions.	Provided a general description of the environmental health factors depicted in the image(s) but did not clearly explain the "SHOWeD" components.	Strong description of the environmental health factors depicted in the image(s) and incorporated all "SHOWeD" components.
Conclusion (5 points)	Ineffective conclusion with no summary or suggestions	Unclear writing or underdeveloped summary	Clear writing but not summary or suggestions	Clearly stated summary and provides suggestions for what can be done in the future.

The UH policy regarding academic honesty is always in effect for this course. Plagiarism will result in an automatic zero (0) on this assignment.