

Term Paper and Class Presentation

Term Papers

Description: students will be assigned to a natural resource topic. Each student will research and provide a critique of an existing study related to that topic. Several potential studies to critique will be provided for each resource topic, but students can propose their own study for this term paper and presentation. Week 2 students will be surveyed for topic preferences. Once you have an assigned topic, your *first step* is to examine the studies posted in your topic folder on Canvas. Conduct some research on the topic and in Week 3 specific studies to critique will be assigned to each student. Some class time will be provided periodically during the semester to discuss your progress, resources, methods, challenges and ideas to be shared with other students in your resource group. During the semester I will provide additional materials related to each resource topic (in class and on Canvas).

Once you have a study to critique, your *second step* is to identify relevant literature and resources to review. Get an early start on your sources and references. Each student will be required to research, collect information and data, decide on your approach to the review and critique of your study, methods of analysis, and write a term paper that describes your results. A *third step* is to write a two-page **Study Summary** of the assigned study you will critique **and** a one-page summary of **your plan** to review and critique the study. Your critique does not have to cover all aspects of the study. This three-page Study Summary & Plan is due **Feb. 26th**. The *forth step* for this project will be to respond to comments and prepare your **Final Paper** and **Presentation**. Final paper is due **April 29th**.

Class Presentations

Each student will have **8 minutes** to present the topic of your term paper, results of your critique, conclusions and any recommendations, and promote a few questions from your classmates. All students should prepare PowerPoint slides that help describe your project topic, research, methods, results of analysis and conclusions contained in your term paper. Presentations will be made the final three weeks of the semester. Your presentation serves as **final exam** for this course.

<u>Individual Presentation</u>	<u>Points</u>
Content of slides / information	30%
Quality of the slides	30%
Explanation of your critique	40%

Class Presentations – students will need to provide a single combined group electronic copy of your presentation prior to giving your presentation to the class.

More Details - Individual Term Papers

There will be two phases to preparation of your final term paper. The following table provides those phases, due dates and grade percentage points:

		<u>Due</u>	<u>% Grade</u>
Phase I Paper	Summary of study you will critique and your plan	Feb. 26th	30%
Final Paper		April 29th	70%

You will need to prepare a list of references or bibliography of sources of information used (books, journal articles, newspaper articles, personal interviews, etc.) and appropriately cite the material throughout your term paper. University guidelines on plagiarism can be found at: www.library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=353. Please submit the product for each phase of the paper **electronically** as **single MS Word** document to my email address: pduvair@csus.edu. Assignments are due at 5:30 pm on the scheduled due date. Points will be deducted for work products submitted late.

Study Summary: You will need to provide a brief discussion of your resource topic and summarize the study that you will critique for your term paper. You should describe important economic, policy and natural resource issues identified in the study. Begin your literature review early, as it will help you summarize the study to be critiqued. The Study Summary paper should identify key economic and resource impacts quantified by the author(s), data sources, method of analysis, results and conclusions. The summary should be **two pages** in length, **double-spaced**, **one-inch margins**, and **12-point font**. In addition, the Study Summary needs to contain a one-page description of **your plan** for the critique. The **one-page plan** can describe what key aspects of the study you will focus your comments on – economic analyses, study methods, conclusions, needs for future research.

Your final paper needs a references section containing your sources, which should contain a minimum of 10 sources. It is best to obtain different types of sources (e.g., journal articles, published reports, personal interview, news articles, laws or regulations, documentaries). Your references and citations can use either APA (<http://www.apastyle.org/>) or MLA (<http://csus.libguides.com/mla>) format.

Final Paper: This product can include your two-page study summary, discussion of your methods of analysis, additional sources, research, critique results, uncertainties, conclusions and recommendations regarding your specific study. The Final Paper should be between **8 to 10 pages**, double-spaced, one-inch margins, and 12-point font, submitted as a single **MS Word** document.

Your **term paper** will count towards **65%** of this course grade component.

Your in-class **presentation** will count towards **35%** of this course grade component.