

Final Project: Solving Global Challenges

HONORS BIOLOGY

Background: Informally, a global issue describes any social, economic, political or environmental problem that affects the global community, possibly in a catastrophic way. Solutions to global issues require cooperation among nations.

Someday, you will all be responsible, decision-making adults out in the “real-world” and your choices can make a difference. This is a great time to get in the habit of being aware of current events that impact YOUR planet. Anything that affects the environment could likely change your life now and in the future.



Assignment: Research a global environmental issue and present solution to your class.

You will be given some time in class to work on this project, but most of the work will be done on your own time. The project consists of two parts: an oral presentation where your team will present your global issue to the class, and a written summary in which the team defines the problem, and describe your proposed solution(s). You must include appropriate terminology that you have learned throughout the year.

This project will be worth 15% of your overall grade this semester (*in lieu of a final exam*).

Procedure:

1. You will randomly select a specific global issue from a list of provided by your teacher (*you will be “drawing from a hat”*). Once all students have selected, you may exchange topic with other groups if you wish.
2. Your group will then research the topic and prepare both a written summary and prepare a presentation that you will share with the class
 - **Written Summary:**
 - Your written summary should include the following:
 - Explain the global environmental issue you are covering. (*Apply appropriate concepts and terminology you have learned throughout the school year*)
 - Investigate the history behind the issue? (*How did it form?*)
 - Assess who the major “players” involved in the issue are. (Governmental /global agencies, local townspeople, private or public organizations, etc.)?
 - What are people currently doing to help prevent or change the issue?
 - Analyze how this issue will have an impact on humans and the environment now and in the future?
 - Design a proposed solution to remediate this issue in the future?
 - You must include data, diagrams, maps, and charts
 - Written Summary should be between 1000-2000 words (*include a word count*).
 - Every member of the group must contribute to the written summary (*identify sections written by each of your group members*)
 - It must include a bibliography with at least 6 sources (MLA format)
 - Written summaries will be due prior to finals week (5/25 or 5/26)
 - Include group names and period number on Written Summary

• **Group Presentation:**

- Your presentation should include the following:
 - Explain the global environmental issue you are covering.
 - Investigate the history behind the issue?
 - Who are the major “players” involved in the issue (*government agencies, local townspeople, private or public organizations, etc.*)?
 - Is this a regional or global issue?
 - What are people doing to help prevent or change the issue?
 - Analyze does this issue have an impact on humans and the environment now and in the future?
 - Design a proposed solution to remediate this issue in the future?
- Your presentation can be in the form of a: PowerPoint presentation, website, video, Google Slides, etc. (*talk to the teacher if you wish to use another method not mentioned*)
- Your presentation must include a variety of graphics and data (*in the form of charts, tables, maps, etc.*).
- Every member of your group must help present your project (*do not simply read your slides*)
- Your presentation must be between 10-15 minutes.
- Presentations will begin on block days prior to final exam week (5/25 and 5/26), and continue during your final exam period the following week (May 30th - June 1st.)

Global Environmental Issues:

(If you have one that is not on the list, check with your teacher for approval)

1. Increase in Toxic Marine Algal Blooms
2. Decline of Coral Reef Habitats
3. Soil Degradation due to Industrial Agriculture
4. Collapse of Global Fisheries
5. Desertification of Grazing Lands
6. Instituting Sustainable Logging Practices
7. Increase in “Super Bugs” in Urban Environments
8. Impacts of Poaching on Species Viability
9. Urban Heat Domes and Pollution
10. Anthropocentric Influences on Habitat Alteration
11. GMO’s Importance on Global Food Diversity
12. The Impact of Climate Change on Food and Water Security
13. Urban Sprawl and it’s Impact of Biodiversity
14. Natural Resource Depletion and its Effects on Future Generations
15. Impacts of Stratospheric Ozone Layer Depletion
16. Global Population Growth and its Effect on Limited Resources