This semester you are required to write a formal research paper concerning an environmental problem facing humans today. Your paper will be based on information gathered on one of the following environmental problems:

1. Acid precipitation
2. Ozone depletion
3. Nuclear energy
4. Tropical deforestation
5. Greenhouse effect
6. Hazardous waste disposal
7. Air pollution/Automobile
8. Air pollution/Industrial
9. Indoor air pollution
10. Water pollution/Industrial
11. Water pollution/Agricultural
12. Water pollution/Domestic
13. Biodiversity
14. Alternative energy/Solar
15. Alternative energy/Wind
16. Alternative energy/Hydro
17. Nonrenewable energy
18. World population
19. Developed world population
20. Third world population
21. World hunger/Protein
22. World hunger/Calories
23. Sustainable agriculture
24. Herbicide use
25. Insecticide use
26. Radiation pollution
27. Lead pollution
28. Heavy metal pollution
29. Noise pollution
30. Wilderness values
31. Surface mining
32. Soil erosion
33. Any other environmental problem with the instructor’s permission

You are required to inform the instructor in writing of the topic you have chosen. You can not change your topic without informing the instructor in writing and obtaining his/her approval.

The paper must be 6-10 typed, double-spaced pages (with a maximum of one inch margins all around). The page requirement does not include the bibliography page nor the cover sheet. Do NOT use a plastic folder—it is unnecessary, a hassle for the instructor, and it pollutes! You must have a minimum of 6 different references in your bibliography. Four of these references may come from the BS 105 Bibliography (copies in the LRC and Kent Library), but a minimum of 2 new references should come from sources you track down (e.g., scientific journals are preferred but popular press magazine articles are acceptable; references to encyclopedias are not acceptable). Clearly legible photocopies of the 2 new articles must be turned in with your paper. Because the field of environmental science is so rapidly changing and expanding, the new articles must be from 1988 onward; older references are not acceptable. These new articles will help the BS 105 Bibliography files to grow and will be concrete documentation of your efforts to locate and gather information.

Your paper should closely follow this format:

I. Statement of the problem
   Why is this topic a problem? What aspects of the topic make it an environmental problem?

II. Historical basis of the problem.
   When did the problem start? Where? What happened to make the topic an environmental problem?
   What was the situation that made the topic such a problem?

III. Correction of the problem.
   What is being done? Is it enough? What more needs to be done? What are your solutions to the problem? What is being done by individuals, groups, and societies? What more needs to be done by
individuals, groups, and societies? Compare and contrast idealistic versus realistic solutions to the problem.

IV. Advantages to correction.
Why correct the problem? Why do what you say to do in your solutions? What are the immediate consequences and long-term consequences if no correction is made? What are the benefits to the individual and societies to correction?

V. Disadvantages of correction.
Why not leave the problem a problem? What are the consequences to other parts of the environment if the correction is made? (By correction, are we trading one problem for another?) What possible negative effects does correcting the problem have? (“There is no such thing as a free lunch!”)

VI. Bibliography.
A complete list of the articles and books you used to find information for your paper. The list must be alphabetically arranged and in the format given below.

Bibliographic Citations to Journals
Author’s last name, first initial. (year) Article title. Journal title volume:pages.

Bibliographic Citations to Books
Author’s last name, first initial. (year) Book title. Publisher’s name:city of publisher; pages cited.

How to cite references in the test of the paper:
Citations should indicate the name(s) of the author and the year. For example:

Mallard duck behavior is altered by exposure to methyl parathion (Brewer, 1988).

or

Brewer (1988) demonstrated that the pesticide methyl parathion can alter the behavior of mallard ducks.

As you write your paper, please keep these four items in mind:
1. Do not quote material. Read and paraphrase it.
2. Use references liberally to indicate the source of your information and ideas.
   Be very careful of any possible plagiarism of printed material. Instructors will closely adhere to the University policy on plagiarism.
3. Work independently on the paper. Instructors will compare papers on the same topic within and between sections to determine any undue similarities in the papers.
4. Proofread your paper! If your paper is not grammatically correct then you will be penalized.

Comment [PC7]: The examples in this section are excellent, clearly providing the student with guidance that can be used in writing the paper.

Comment [PC8]: Ultimately, there are a couple areas for potential revision here. First, there is some important information—the dates, grading standards, etc.—missing. At the same time, the document takes up almost two pages, and information is written almost everywhere on the page. Presenting essential information only (elaboration can be done in class) and using a more readable design would help make this document a more effective reference for students.