

## **Geography 121: Geography, Modernity and Globalization.**

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Term Paper Proposal.

Due Friday October 17, maximum one page, worth one mark towards your final paper.

This proposal is an important step in creating a solid paper. Please don't embark on extensive research or writing until you have our topic approval. We will give you detailed feedback that will help you refine your argument and execute your essay.

Select a topic about which you feel particularly passionate. The scale is entirely your choice. It could be an issue limited to the UBC campus, or be as wide as the globe. Please select something that we have not covered in class so far (ie, don't choose the 100-mile diet, or ecological footprint analysis).

Suggestions might include, but are certainly not limited to: Native land claims, the B.C. mountain pine beetle infestation, genetically modified organisms, nanotechnology, aquaculture, transportation, corporate social responsibility, renewable energy, environment and human health, the environmental effects of a specific industry (say, cut flowers, or anything else you can think of), biodiversity, fisheries management, environmental justice, endangered species legislation, gender Issues as manifested in environmental concerns, bulk water exports, environmental law. The list is endless.

Begin your proposal with a couple of sentences that introduce the field you want to explore. Then, get right to the point and present the problem that you want to investigate, or a thesis statement that you would like to test.

Next, include some discussion of the sorts of information that you will need, and where/how you anticipate getting this "data." Please be as specific as you can (ie, do not write "the library", instead describe specific fields or subject keywords you have tried). Can you foresee what some of your biggest challenges will be in pursuing your chosen research?

Remember, this is a proposal which means that a lot can change by the time you hand in the final product. Our purpose here is to get you to commit to a general topic and to start thinking about it in depth. Set some modest, reasonable goals for yourself here: ultimately, you will produce an 8 page research paper.

In your final paper it is important that, rather than simply describing a problem, you also take a definite stand on the issue and recommend solutions, as you understand them.

If you have any questions then get in touch. We look forward to reading your creative proposals!