

UBC, Geography 419: Research in Environmental Geography.

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Term Project Proposal Guidelines.

One page, due in class on January 13, 2010. This proposal is worth 5% of your final grade. Please include at least three peer-reviewed sources, cited in an appropriate format.

The proposal:

Select a topic about which you feel particularly passionate (after all, you will be working on it all term long!). The scale is entirely your choice. It could be an issue limited to the UBC campus, or be as wide as the globe.

Topic suggestions might include, but are certainly not limited to: Native land claims, Genetically Modified Organisms, Arctic sovereignty in the light of climate change, Nanotechnology, Aquaculture, Food security, Participatory Planning Processes, Transportation, Corporate Social Responsibility, Renewable energy, environment and human health, the environmental effects of a specific industry (say, space exploration, 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, environmental refugees. The list is endless, but this is a geography class so a spatial component in your analysis will be particularly rewarded.

Begin your proposal with a couple of sentences that introduce the field you want to explore. Then, get right to the point and present a problem that you want to investigate or a thesis statement that you would like to test. Remember, this is a proposal which means that a lot can change by the time you hand in the final product. Don't get too hung up about the details at this stage.

Include some discussion of the sorts of information that you will need, and where/how you anticipate getting this "data." Can you foresee what some of your biggest challenges will be in pursuing your chosen research?

Remember to set some modest, reasonable goals for yourself here. You are aiming to compose a 10-page research paper, not to write a graduate thesis. If you have any questions then get in touch. I look forward to reading your creative proposals!

Marking rubric.

You will be marked according to how much thought you have put into your proposal, how well you have communicated what you want to do, and how creative your topic is. As a general guideline, you should plan on spending at least four hours preparing your proposal.