Media Representations of Environmental Issues Essay

Select one topic from the four below and write a 2000 word essay (approximately 6–8 double-spaced pages, not including diagrams or tables).

* + 1. **Media and Film**

Following are links to three films that focus on some factors affecting the exploitation and/or protection of the natural environment. Make a connection between what is discussed in the film and what you know about your local area. Is the film presentation balanced? Do you think that the information that the film provides is relevant to your life and/or local area?

Write an essay that reflects on your chosen film and how its perspective on the environment relates to your local area.

* + - * A World Without Water, directed by Brian Woods and produced in the UK by True Vision, outlines personal tragedies that are created by the privatization of water supplies.
      * Blind Spot, by director Adolfo Doring outlines the current oil and energy crisis that we are facing.
      * [2012: Time for Change](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8cNJupgsD0o), directed by Joao G. Amorim (can be rented online), presents ways to transform an unsustainable society.
    1. **Climate Change**

Climate change is a major topic of environmental sustainability. What does climate change mean to you? Profile your community by comparing and contrasting it with another community (anywhere in the world) by considering the potential impacts of climate change on these two communities. Discuss the potential impact of an average annual temperature increase of 2°C on each community What would be the potential impact if the average annual temperature increased by 4°C? What are possible mitigations and adaptations to climate change in each area?

* + 1. **Consider the following quotation by Mahatma Ghandi: "Earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s need, but not every man’s greed."**

Discuss this quotation by referring to an environmental issue or case study of your choice. Be sure to include evidence showing that the environmental issue is the result of greed.

* + 1. **Media Watch**

In this paper, you will use academic research and compare it with the media representation of the same issue. For three weeks, follow the media representation of one particular environmental issue. You can use any type of media, although you are encouraged to use at least two kinds: newspaper articles, television news reports, radio programs, podcasts, magazine articles, or blog posts. Compare and contrast this representation with the way this issue is researched and presented in a peer-reviewed scientific article. In what ways is the media representation of the issue different from or similar to the scientific view (explain in terms of descriptive characteristics, themes, stereotypes, etc.)? Does the media representation accurately represent and explain the issue? Why do you think the media represents the issue the way it does?

Suggested Criteria for Essay Paper

Following is the criteria used to evaluate your written assignments.

**Substance** The research paper provides evidence of critical thinking and analysis and synthesis of researched information throughout, and presents a logical and persuasive argument.

* + 1. Research sources are relevant, current, and credible, and they are clearly documented in the paper.
    2. The introduction articulates the direction the paper will take, a kind of high-level map for the reader, and presents a clear thesis statement.
    3. The body develops the thesis by providing examples, support, or illustration for each aspect (usually three major topics) of the main idea.
    4. The conclusion summarizes the main points and ties them to the thesis; it also presents an impact statement and/or suggests directions for future research.

**Writing Style and Format**

* + 1. Paragraphs are unified, developed, and coherent with transitions between ideas.
    2. Sentences are grammatically correct; words are chosen for accuracy and impact.
    3. The writing follows the conventions of spelling and mechanics (punctuation, etc.).
    4. The format follows the appropriate documentation style Council of Science Editors [CSE]) accurately and consistently.