

## APES Summer Current Events Assignment

In environmental science, it is important to be aware of the current environmental issues in the news. A core goal for this course is to bring a higher level of awareness and education regarding important environmental issues. Important environment issues range from local activities to global catastrophes. As a student of environmental science, you should be aware of current environmental issues by reading local newspapers, nature/ecological/environmental periodicals, to postings on the internet. If you happen to see a particular item on the television news, there is usually a print article associated with that video item. Since we will be reading and discussing a variety of current events in this course, this is your first opportunity to start becoming aware and considering environmental issues and how they affect you and your world.

**Summer Assignment:** Find five articles that relate to environmental science. Topics may include but are not limited to the following:

endangered/threatened species,	food production/food safety,	pests & control, environmental regulations/federal & state laws,
pollution,	air quality,	
climate change,	water quality,	alternative energy,
energy (renewable/nonrenewable),	waste management,	indoor air quality,
fossil fuels,	conservation/wildlife,	mining,
nuclear energy,	Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's),	fisheries,
population growth,	forest issues (deforestation),	oceanic issues,
		... etc.

You will type a summary of the article (1 paragraph, double-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman, at least 150 words), then a second paragraph with your personal reaction (at least 150-250 words). Your summary will have the reference/link to your article. You will then submit an electronic copy of your summary to Turnitin.com, which means you will have to sign up for the class on the Turnitin.com web site. You will have five separate due dates during the summer to submit your summaries to Turnitin.com. You will also turn in a hard copy of your summary and your article on the first day of school. If you submit late, I will deduct 10% per day. Alternatively, you may submit early.

**Articles:** All articles should be current (you may start back in June of 2015) and referenced from a reliable source. Resources may be scientific publications, popular magazines, or newspapers. You may search for these on-line. The New York Times publishes a science section on Tuesdays. Other newspapers/periodicals to consider are the following: Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, The Sun (San Bernardino), the various high desert news outlets (Daily Press, Hesperia Star, Daily Dispatch), National Geographic, Discover Magazine, Natural History Magazine, Scientific American, Science, Nature, etc. The articles should be long enough for you to write a substantial summary and well-thought response.

All bibliographic information should be present on the article or included in the summary. Please try to find a variety of articles, locally to globally, and they should address multiple issues (i.e. do not have three articles on air pollution).

**Summary:** What is the main issue? Summarize the key points of the article. Does the article relate to an on-going issue, or is this a new issue? Will anyone/anything be affected by this issue? If humans will be affected, how many & how so? Is this a local issue or a regional/global issue?

**Personal Reaction:** Your personal reaction should clearly state your opinion. You may offer potential solutions, compare your article to other environments problems/concerns, you may ask questions about the article like “Is this written and skewed toward a particular perspective?” Finally, you should always end your personal reaction with a look to the future, “Where do we go from here?” “What happens next?” “Action alert.” Why did you select this article?

**Presentation:** For one of your articles, you will prepare a power point presentation. You will present this to the class at a later date. Your presentation will be a summary of the article. Visually present to the class, an introduction to your article, where the article takes place (location), what part of environmental science does the article fall under (see topics above), if there are two sides to the issue, try to present both sides, and if you wish take a stand and choose a side. You can email in your presentation or bring in a flash drive.

Some questions to help drive your presentation are as follows:

- Where? Location. Give a picture, show a map.
- Who? Who is involved, who is affected, who are the parties represented, who are the agencies involved? Show some pictures.
- What? What is it that caused the article to be written? What is going on? What does the future hold? Show some pictures.
- When? Did just happen? Are these the after affects of something that happened in the past? Are we preparing for something that might or will happen in the future? Are we doing something now? Show some pictures.
- How? How are we affected by the issue? How are we going to resolve the issue (legislation?, direction action?). How did we get into this situation? How do we get out of this situation? Show some pictures.
- Can you show some pictures that would help illuminate the issue for your classmates? A picture is worth a thousand words. Depending upon the type of picture used, you can elicit a particular response from your audience.

**Due:** Your articles and presentation are due the first day at school. Your submitted papers to Turnitin.com are also due on the first day of school.