

Group Project

Project: Report on a current environmental science topic being jointly addressed by scientists, governmental officials, and local residents. This is a cooperative group project.

Objective: Given a contemporary environmental problem, students will utilize their introductory knowledge of the environmental sciences, library research skills (Obj. 3), cooperative interpersonal skills, and writing and oral reporting skills to identify and report on the major ecological, economic, political, and biblical stewardship factors that should be considered in any attempt to resolve the environmental problem. Syllabus Obj. 4 and 6.

Problem: Gulf Coast Hypoxia– Starting Reference: Dybas, C.L. (2005). Dead zones spreading in world oceans. *Bioscience*, 55(7), 552-557. Obtain and print this source for background information, and keep it in the “Group Project” section of your journal.

Procedure: In four phases or steps as follows:

	Activity	Report	Due	Points
1	Cooperative effort to analyze problem into ecological, economic, political, <i>etc.</i> components ¹ ; then summarize findings	1-page, double-spaced summary of the scope and key factors; five or more periodic references (APA)	3-18	5
2	Distribute roles to each member in logical manner to voice important considerations ² in problem (five?)	Each member presents 2-page, 2x-spaced report; conferral with group as appropriate	4-1	5
3	Cooperative effort to compile list of professions ³ involved in this case; see step #2 from each person	List each profess. with 1-sentence explanation of role; list of ≥ 5 internships or job opportunities	4-15	5
4	Develop oral report (30-40 min) outlining your findings and issues ⁴ that must be considered in solution	Group decides on format, media, and how each member is involved; prepare for discussion afterwards.	4-29	10

Consultation – Please contact me by e-mail or arrange an appointment at my office as necessary.
Submission of assigned reports – Reports are on the respective due dates at the beginning of class.

¹ Components - For example: nature of the problem, geographic scope, cause(s), responsible parties, parties affected, sources of authority to influence *status quo* or change

² Considerations - For example: Ecological, economic, cultural, etc.

³ Professions - vocational titles (e.g. ecologist, hydrologist, public policy expert, etc.)

⁴

Findings and Issues - representing the “components” and “considerations” you’ve identified, now presented in a logical manner; not to “solve the problem” but to clearly present the issues and considerations in an integrated, interdisciplinary manner.