**Global Issues: Environmental Op-Ed Article**

Each of you has chosen a topic to research relating to one of the many global environmental problems. You will be writing an opinion/editorial article that contains, at minimum, the following information:

* **A thesis paragraph** that tells the reader what the topic is and what you will be trying to prove in your article. For example:

*For all but a few diehard skeptics, global climate change is no longer a question of whether it is a result of human activity but instead, one of what the nations of the world can do about it. The global community has made great strides in condemning the use of products containing CFCs, but has failed to curtail the many other industrial and commercial practices that result in climate change. In order to make an impact on stopping this process, all the industrialized nations of the world need to band together to limit or eliminate those practices that contribute to global climate change by establishing internationally binding prohibitions on activities that contribute to harmful air emissions and establish a way to actively enforce such laws. Only then will we have a chance of stopping this growing threat to our earth.*

* **A summary of the history or status of the problem**. You might discuss when the problem first became an issue (eg. *Climate change gradually became a problem as the world became more and more industrialized*.) or you may want to discuss how and when scientists or environmentalists began to do something about the problem (eg. *The issue of climate change began to be taken seriously by the public only in the early 1990’s.*)
* **Discussion of specific examples of the issue**. Identify specific places in the world where your environmental issue is most prevalent and provide some analysis of the science behind the problem. (eg. *Evidence of global climate change most apparent when we look at the rapid loss of the polar icecaps. Scientists have analyzed the causes of the melting and believe that it is caused by…..*)
* **Evaluation of how this issue has a global impact.** You need to discuss how your environmental problem affects the international community. (eg. *Loss of the polar icecap as a consequence of global warming will result in increases in sea levels which in turn will cause the loss of land and homes all along the coastline of the United States, parts of Europe and much of Indonesia.)*
* **Evaluation of what is being done about the problem and/or what can or should be done.** You will look at the current status of the issue and discuss what actions are being taken to solve the problem. You should discuss not only what is being done currently, but also what more can or should be done to stop the problem.
* **A conclusion.** This is a paragraph that wraps up all that you have discussed. It is possible that this paragraph may include the above evaluation of what more needs to be done to fix the environmental problem.

The paper must be at least four pages in length, double spaced, one-inch margins, 11 point font. In addition, you must cite your sources on a separate page. You should have at minimum four sources and you may not use Wikipedia as one of these sources. Use MLA format to cite your sources (if you are unsure of proper MLA citation format, check the Purdue Online Writing Lab site: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>).