

**GEOGRAPHY 340: ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY**  
**FINAL COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECT**  
**Instruction Guide & Evaluation Rubric**  
**125 POINTS (25% of Final Grade)**

**INSTRUCTION GUIDE:** For the final project you will work in groups to conduct a research project on an environmental geography topic. As a group, you will write a 5-6 page research paper, and prepare a 15 min PowerPoint presentation to share your research project and results. You will present your research to the class in a 15-min group presentation.

**\*NOTE\*** Each group must fill out and print a copy of the presentation rubric (last page below) and hand this to me on the day of presentation (ONE PER GROUP)

**Required Outputs:**

1. Research Paper - 5-6 Pages; Minimum 3 peer reviewed articles
2. PowerPoint Presentation – 15 minutes; each group member must contribute to the presentation

**Grade Breakdown:**

- Paper (75 points)
- Presentation Total (50 points)
  - Content (25)
  - Individual Contribution (25)

**Due Dates:**

1. Final **Paper and PowerPoint** is due to Dropbox on **Thursday, December 2, by Midnight**

**Presentation Dates:**

Group presentations will take place in class on **Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** and **Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Sample Research Paper Text Outline:**

**\*IMPORTANT:\*** This paper needs to be a cohesive, formal paper with fully developed paragraphs. Do not simply answer each bullet point in a sentence and mash that into a paragraph. That is not appropriate for college level, academic essay writing. Essays should be grammatically sound and clear.

The following bullet points provide you with a general idea of how to structure your paper and the topics that should be addressed. They do not represent an exhaustive list. Grades are not solely based off whether or not you can point to some place in your essay where you answered each question. Research papers are a form of written communication—a way of answering questions. Your grade is based on how well you answer the questions using the *structure/method* of essay writing, as well as the content.

1. Introduction (1 paragraph)
  - Research topic and goals
  - Main research question(s)
  - Contextualize your research within environmental geography
  - What gap does your research fill? Why is your research interesting/important?
  - Ends with thesis statement that states your primary findings
2. Literature Review (2-3 paragraphs)
  - Discuss previous research on your topic (cite at least 3 peer reviewed research sources)
  - Briefly summarize the sources you are citing
  - What do these sources contribute to your area of research?

3. Results & Findings (2-4 paragraphs) (This should directly relate to what you state in your thesis)

- Analyze and apply the articles to your research
- Tell the reader what you found
- How do the articles relate to your research questions?
- What is your analysis now that you have researched the topics?
- What questions do you have left? Suggestions for further research?

4. Conclusion (1 paragraph)

- Rephrase and restate thesis (primary findings)
- Summarize the main topic of the research and its significance
- Stress the most important 1-2 findings of the research

5. References/Bibliography (cite your sources correctly in MLA or Chicago/Turabian)

### **GEOGRAPHY 340: ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY FINAL COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECT RUBRIC**

#### **EVALUATION RUBRIC FOR FINAL PROJECT ESSAY:**

This rubric is designed to make clear the grading process for written and oral communication by informing you what key elements are expected by the university in a “good” research project.

Your Final Research Project will be evaluated by the criteria below to give you specific feedback and help guide your development as a writer.

	Excellent	Good	Meets Expectation	Meets Minimum Expectation	Not Acceptable
<b>Content &amp; Organization</b>					
1. Meets minimum page limit.					
2. Research question(s) are clear, significant, and challenging.					
3. Thesis is appropriate, compelling, and clear.					
4. Sources are summarized, analyzed, and applied clearly.					
5. The research findings make sense and follow from/relate to the literature review.					
6. Organization is effective and appropriate.					
7. Punctuation, grammar, spelling, and mechanics are appropriate.					
<b>Critical Thinking &amp; Analysis</b>					
8. There is clear logic and cohesion between and among sentences, ideas, and paragraphs.					
9. Independent, critical thinking & creativity is evident.					
10. The conclusions and outcomes are clear and logical.					
<b>Use of Evidence, Graphics &amp; Source Documentation</b>					
11. Information and evidence are accurate, appropriate, and integrated effectively (ex. Citing of sources).					
12. Claims and ideas are supported and elaborated.					
13. A minimum of 3 peer reviewed sources are utilized.					
14. Sources used are appropriate to the research.					
15. The format adheres to MLA or Chicago/Turabian style.					

## EVALUATION RUBRIC FOR PRESENTATION

**Group Project:** \_\_\_\_\_

**-Meets minimum time:**      YES \_\_\_\_\_      NO \_\_\_\_\_

**-Content: Score** \_\_\_\_\_ / 25

**-Slides are clear and articulate research questions & answers**

**-Slides relate academic sources to topic**

**-Slides proceed in a logic manner**

### **Individual Group Members Participation:**

1.) \_\_\_\_\_ : Score \_\_\_\_\_ / 25

2.) \_\_\_\_\_ : Score \_\_\_\_\_ / 25

3.) \_\_\_\_\_ : Score \_\_\_\_\_ / 25

4.) \_\_\_\_\_ : Score \_\_\_\_\_ / 25

5.) \_\_\_\_\_ : Score \_\_\_\_\_ / 25