

Earth Sc/Envir Sc/Geog 2EI3

Term Paper

Fall 2017

Term Paper

- In this assignment, you will take position either on a major global environmental issue, or on a major Canadian environmental issue and discuss it by using relevant and informed, **factual** arguments.
- Take position on **one** of these statements:

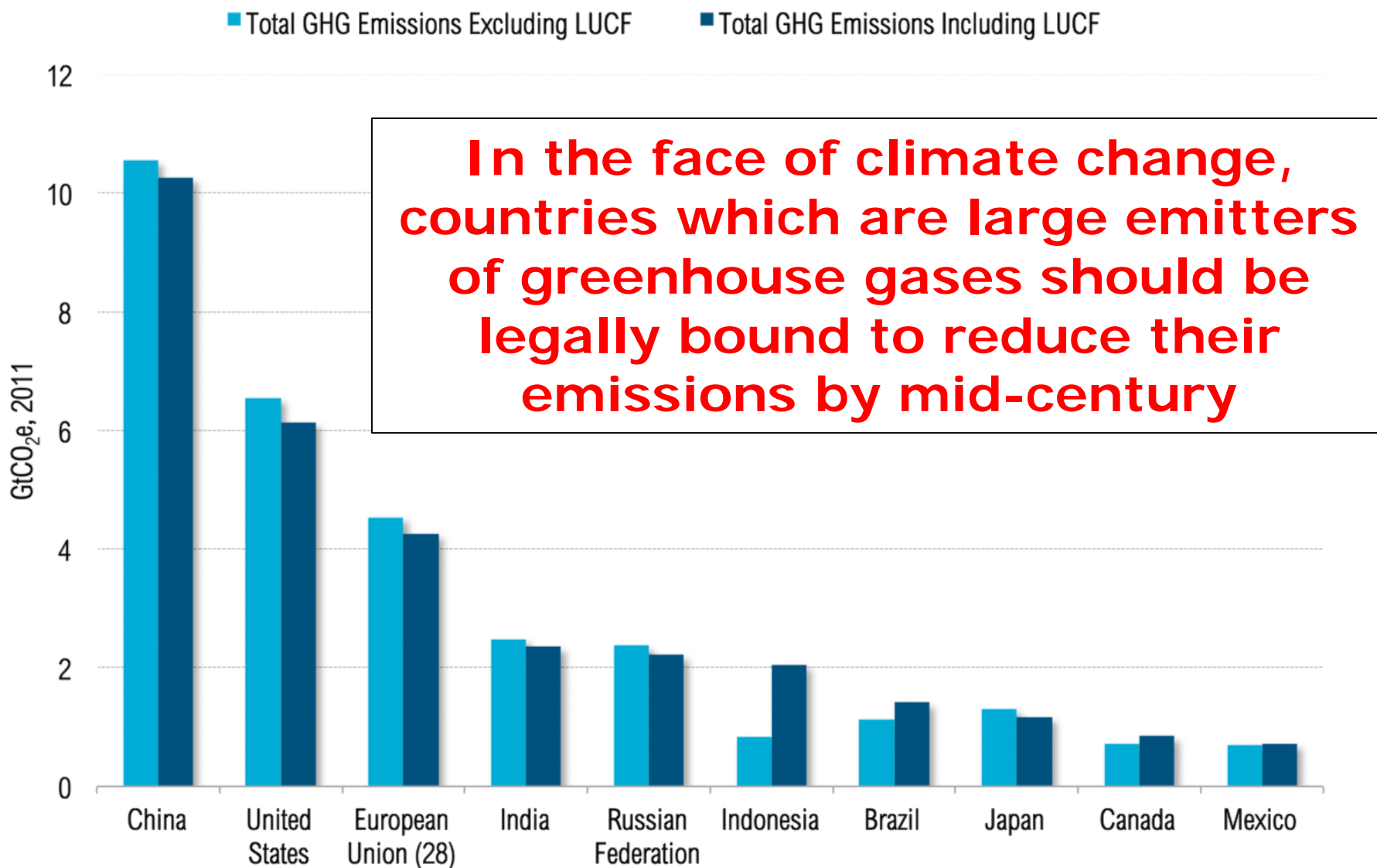
Our current economic system, based on the consumption of goods and services, cannot be replaced by one that is less wasteful



Countries in the developing world should be allowed to dispose, for profit, of toxic wastes shipped to them from developed countries

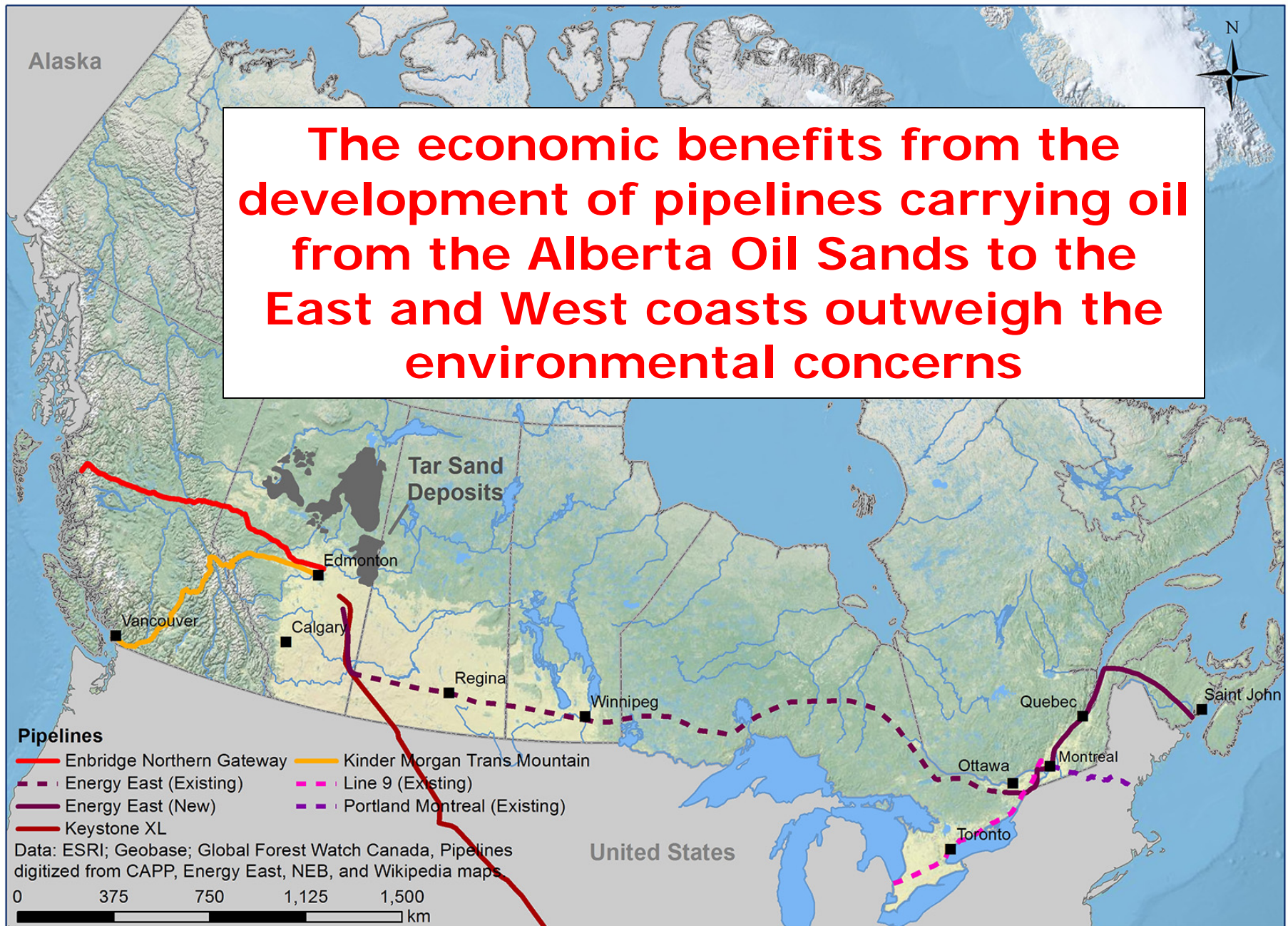


Top 10 Emitters



Canada is an international leader in the development of sustainable fisheries





The economic benefits from the development of pipelines carrying oil from the Alberta Oil Sands to the East and West coasts outweigh the environmental concerns

**In order to protect its biodiversity,
Canada should forbid entirely public
access to its National Parks**



2. How to...

Paper Format

- Paper length: 5-6 pages
- Must contain:
 - an introduction
 - a conclusion
 - a reference list
- Format: Times News Roman, 12 pt font, double-spaced, with normal margins: 2.54 cm
- **Do NOT add empty lines for aesthetic purposes**

Content

Approximately 5-6 pages of text (excludes figures, tables, reference list)

Introduction

- Clear statement of position
- Significance of problem discussed is clearly stated
- Introduces the reader to the outline of the paper

Body of the Paper

- Logical flow of ideas and information
- Document is without unnecessary repetition of information
- Writing is clear and concise
- Reliable sources are used
- Discussion related to global (or Canadian) context
- Sufficient number of arguments (4 needed for full marks)
- Information presented actually supports the position stated
- Information presented is focused

Conclusion

- Restates position taken
- Links to the introduction
- Introduces no new information
- Pulls the paper together

Presentation and Layout

References

- minimum of ten
- alphabetical order
- author, date citation format used in body of text
- all material that required referencing is actually referenced
- Avoid as much as possible non-scholarly sources (e.g. Wikipedia)
- If used, websites must be from reliable sources
- **Only one direct quote allowed within the text**

Earth Sc/Envir Sc/Geog 2E13 – Term Paper – Marking Scheme

INTRODUCTION						
Clear statement of position						
No statement	Very Unclear	Poor, lacks clarity	Good; still lacks clarity	Minor changes required	Clear statement	/2.5
0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5	
Significance of problem is clear						
Not approached	Significance too broad	Poor, lacks focus/scope	Good, still lacks focus/scope	Minor changes required	Excellent scope/focus	/2.5
0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5	
Introduces the reader to the outline of the paper						
No outline	Does not reflect content	Poor (e.g. too brief)	Good, but needs more detail	Minor changes required	Excellent outline	/2.5
0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5	
BODY OF PAPER						
Logical flow of ideas and information						
Ideas are unrelated	Contradictions between ideas	Poor transition between ideas	Poor links within paragraphs	Minor flaws in linkages	Logical flow of ideas	/5
0	1	2	3	4	5	
No unnecessary repetition of information						
Single idea repeated throughout paper	Many repetitions	Many needless minor points	Some repetition	Minor repetitions	No repetition	/5
0	1	2	3	4	5	
Writing is clear and concise						
Often, more than 1 idea/sentence	Ideas are not clearly stated	No breaks in text	Too much unnecessary jargon	Minor changes required	Clear and concise	/5
0	1	2	3	4	5	
Information comes from reliable sources						
No reliable sources	1 or 2 reliable sources	Mostly unreliable sources	1/2 of sources are reliable	Mostly reliable	Only reliable sources used	/5
0	1	2	3	4	5	
Sufficient Number of arguments						
No argument; nearly only quotes	1 – 2 clearly identified arguments	3 arguments but not (all) clearly identified	3 clearly identified arguments	4 arguments but not (all) clearly identified	4 clearly identified arguments	/10
0	2	4	6	8	10	
Discussion is related to the global context, or Canadian context (if the topic selected is specific to Canada)						
Global context not discussed	Vaguely related	Moderately related	Good, but big picture is still missing	Minor changes	Thorough discussion	/10
0	2	4	6	8	10	
Arguments supports the thesis statement						
Contradicts thesis	Rhetorical Discussion	Poorly supports thesis	Many arguments without support	Minor changes	Thesis entirely supported	/10
0	2	4	6	8	10	
Information presented is focused						
Info. does not apply to thesis	Mostly sweeping statements	Some info. does not apply	Info. broadly applies	Minor changes	Information is clear and to the point	/5
0	1	2	3	4	5	
Subtotal (1)						/62.5

CONCLUSION							
Restates position							
Does not restate position	Inaccurate restatement	Implicit restatement	Good; but still too vague	Minor change required	Clearly restate	/2.5	
0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5		
Links to the introduction							
Does not link to intro. at all	No linkage to most of intro.	Poor, link is vague	Good, but still does not link fully	Minor change required	Excellent linkage	/2.5	
0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5		
Introduces no new information							
Only new information	Largely new information	Mostly new information	Good, but some new information	Minor change required	No new information	/2.5	
0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5		
Pulls the paper together: synthesis of paper							
No synthesis of ideas	Little synthesis	Vague synthesis	Good, but incomplete	Minor change required	Excellent synthesis	/2.5	
0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5		
Style/Format/Spelling/Grammar:							/10
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Minus 2 marks for each grammar/spelling mistakeminus 10 marks for format mistake							
Citation/Reference(s):							/10
<ul style="list-style-type: none">minus 2 marks for each in-text referencing mistake, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">author, date citation format not used in body of textnot all material that required referencing is actually referencedlist of references is not in alphabetical orderExcessive use of quotes instead of paraphrase: minus 10 marksminus 1 mark for each mistake with tables/figures, if used, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">not numbered sequentiallydoes not have a meaningful captioncaption is not properly located							
List of References							/10
<ul style="list-style-type: none">minus 6 marks if less than 10 sources were usedminus 2 mark/error if elements below are missing<ul style="list-style-type: none">listed in alphabetical ordercomplete bibliographic information							
Subtotal (2)							/40
Total							/102.5
Additional Comments:							

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Posted on: Sep 23 2011 - 13:35

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Posted on: Sep 14 2011 - 01:25

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Spelling and grammar

Figures/Tables (if included)

- numbered sequentially
- caption: on bottom for figures, on top for tables
- meaningful caption ; should cite source
- content of figure discussed in the text
- relevant to arguments presented

Write Up Process

A. Outline of Paper: during tutorial, **Week of Sept. 25th**

- Submit for review by one of your peers the topic you have chosen and why; present the outline of your paper, including its main thesis
- Typed outline indicating:
 - Which question based you chose
 - What will be the thesis statement (**position**) of your paper
 - Key arguments/points (at least 10) you plan to stress
 - some of the sources (at least 5) you will use
- Format: Times News Roman, 12 pt font, double-spaced
- Key points can be presented in point form
- ***A review grid will be posted on Avenue to Learn: you must print it and bring it to your tutorial.***

Write Up Process

B. annotated bibliography: during tutorial, week of **Oct. 2nd**

- each source is followed by a brief description and evaluation. The purpose is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited

- **your annotations should:**

- provide a summary of the information presented on the related topic

- the author/authority of the source

- note the intended audience

- comment on the quality of the information presented

- explain the relevance of this work to your research topic

- Format: Times News Roman, 12 pt font, double-spaced

- ***A review grid will be posted on Avenue to Learn: you must print it and bring it to your tutorial.***

Write Up Process (3)

C. Draft Term Paper: during tutorial, week of **Oct. 16th**

- Submit a full draft (including figures, table, and a list of sources) for review during tutorial
- Exchange drafts with a peer who will annotate your draft and provide written comments on it
- **Comments need to be extensive!!**
- Discuss with your peer the review of your draft
- Annotations and comments provided will be a clear sign that your draft was carefully reviewed
- Format: Times News Roman, 12 pt font, double-spaced
- ***A review grid will be posted on Avenue to Learn: you must print it and bring it to your tutorial.***

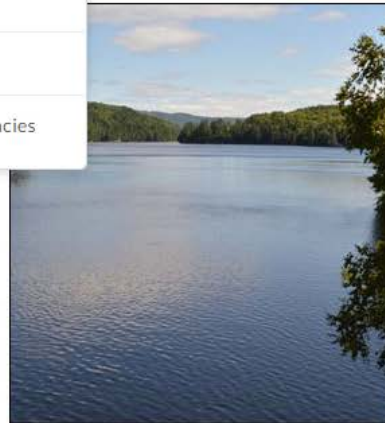
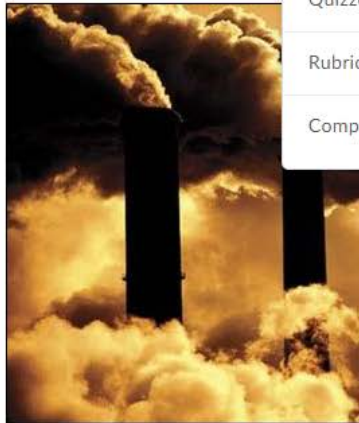
**COMPLETION OF EACH STEP,
INCLUDING PARTICIPATION TO THE
PROCESS, WILL ONLY BE
RECORDED IF YOU SHOW BOTH
THE REPORT AND THE COMPLETED
GRID, BY THE END OF LECTURE.**

**MSAFs WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED
FOR ANY STEP THAT MAY BE
MISSED.**

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Earth Science Geog 2E13: Environmental Issues



Assignments

Grades

Quizzes

Rubrics

Competencies

Announcements ▾

Week of Sept. 18 - Tutorials start this week ▾

Do not forget to print and bring a copy of the [Group Discussion Answer Sheet](#), the completion of which will be used to record your participation to Group Discussions.

Instructor ▾

Dr. Luc Bernier

berniejm@mcmaster.ca

[@MAC_Luc_Bernier](#)

Office Hours (GSB-202): Mondays and

There will be Dropbox folders for each tutorial

Papers will be automatically be checked for similarity with Turnitin

Maximum similarity allowed on the final submission: 10%

Any excess above maximum allowed will be deducted from the Paper mark

E.g.: a paper that is 40% similar to its sources, will receive a 30% deduction

You will be able to repeatedly check the similarity of your paper before the final submission

<input type="checkbox"/>	No Category
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000Nov 1, 2017 4:30 PM

File Format

Your file **MUST** be submitted in one of the following formats:

MS Word, WordPerfect, PostScript,
Acrobat PDF, HTML, RTF, Plain Text

Assignments submitted in the wrong file format cannot be read by the A2L system, and will automatically be given a mark of **zero**.

For Additional Information

Read the outline of the Term Paper, posted on A2L. It contains important information.

Any clarification posted on the Discussion board, on A2L. Go there regularly, as tips will be posted.

Deadline

Wednesday, November 1st 2017, 4:30 p.m., in the **Term Paper** Dropbox, in the course shell for EARTH SC 2EI3, on Avenue to Learn

If deadline missed, etc.: **REFER TO THE COURSE OUTLINE**

Marks (% of Final grade)

Outline	1.25%
Annotated Bibliography	1.25%
Draft of Term Paper	1.25%
Participation to Peer Feedback	1.25%
Final Term Paper	20%

**MAKE SURE THAT YOUR
ASSIGNMENT IS COMPLETE WHEN
YOU SUBMIT IT.**

**ANY MISSING COMPONENT(S)
(TABLES, ETC.) WILL NOT BE
ACCEPTED ONCE THE FINAL
VERSION OF YOUR ASSIGNMENT
HAS BEEN SUBMITTED.**