In order for algae to be a viable alternative source of paper, the algae must first grow at a faster rate in relation to the amount of paper produced in a certain time period compared to other means of creating paper, such as the use of tree farms or other alternative pulp sources.  Secondly, the process must have less of an environmental impact than use of tree pulp for paper.  The EPA and other organizations have demonstrated that the production of paper often creates additional water and air pollution in addition to the degradation of the natural habitats that foresting creates.  If algae were to be an alternative source of paper, and a more environmentally safe alternative, the process would have to have less of an impact than the traditional manner in which paper is fabricated. In my research project, I addressed the first requirement, and not the second.  In the experiment that I performed, the results seem to suggest that the growth of algae in the experiment conditions is not rapid.  I discovered that after a long period of 4 weeks the algae growth was minimal, and the rate of growth was very slow.  If algae were to be an alternative source of paper, the growth of the algae would have to be much greater.  The growth of algae is dependant on a several factors, and the most important are a source of light and a medium that will support growth.  In the experiment that I performed, I used a single, white fluorescent bulb that was continuously on.  For the medium, I used a freshwater growth medium that was neutral in pH.  It was most likely the medium that caused the lack of growth.  While the medium supported growth of the algae, the rate was too slow for the requirements that are needed to produce paper.  As stated before, the algae growth has to be rapid to promote the use of algae as a paper source.  I believe that the lack of growth in the experiment can be attributed to the lack of abundant nutrients, like nitrates and phosphates that would encourage the rapid growth of algae.