**Milestone 1: Proposal**

**Project Title:**

Oil Exploration and Indigenous Lands in Alaska

**Synopsis:**

In this project, I will investigate the complex interactions between indigenous communities and oil companies in Alaska, where oil mining has played a big role in the economy. I will examine environmental, cultural, and legal implications of oil exploration on indigenous lands, and how these business activities have impacted the day-to-day life of indigenous peoples. Particularly, how indigenous people were impacted by drilling and mining that occurred on their land, which might not have even been legal.

This topic is relevant to ongoing debates about land rights, as shown with the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. My hope is that the website will help spread awareness of how natural gas businesses can disrupt peoples’ lives, and how the relentless pursuit of these natural resources can harm our environment and economy.

To convey my research, I would like to use a website format, with different sections discussing each of the areas I mentioned above (environmental, cultural, legal implications). Additionally, I will include a timeline of oil exploration in Alaska, so that my audience can get a better understanding of when oil exploration became impactful in Alaska. Finally, I will also include a section containing testimonials from indigenous peoples who were impacted by the oil activity, so that my audience understands how people were personally impacted. A website will allow me to organize my information properly and make it more interactive, which is why I prefer this format to the paper format. It will also allow me to integrate videos, images, and other media formats into my work easily, giving me more flexibility. As an EECS major, I like the opportunity to use my knowledge in other areas.

**Sources:**

Testimonies:

* <https://www.npr.org/2023/03/14/1163301566/indigenous-groups-lash-out-after-an-oil-drilling-project-is-approved-in-alaska>
* <https://www.theindigenousfoundation.org/articles/the-willow-project-and-its-impacts-on-indigenous-communities>
* <https://alaskapublic.org/2019/02/12/alaska-native-issues-feature-prominently-at-hearing-on-arctic-refuge-oil-leasing/>

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge:

* <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10584-019-02489-4>

Impact on Indigenous People:

* <https://www.jstor.org/stable/42980895?casa_token=mMJtEmtQ6UsAAAAA%3AVYkASzUO89GtqTgaKLK5YcEoJUXgulrsxHVaGX2OC-ZqjNYP9Qs_UiSfsrJVQyhbrPjUSAaqjNV8-zYww2emrhBUUUKRsqHG1XA5g15K-orBdM7hGA>
* <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/08941920701460325?casa_token=PwR6jg5Z5T8AAAAA%3A4dOD20YyU11mMPgfpWBCuekt8Avz-UszM9CiVH6VP08rMCmJdfKjpprJ3SObLR5Zoi9xhx8hkvo>

**Tools/Media:**

I will build the website using HTML (for content), and CSS (for styling). It will also include embedded YouTube videos, images, and maybe some more files, depending on what I think is appropriate. I will either host the website on GitHub, or some other online free hosting service.

**Potential Obstacles:**

I think there may be issues with hosting the website online, but I have a few workarounds using free tools that will let me make the website public. Other than that, I think the only issue will be formatting the information, but using online templates should make this part easier.

**Accessibility:**

A lot of website templates online have accessibility measures built in, which I would like to use. Additionally, I will add image descriptions and other common website accessibility tools.