

Alternative Energy Project Instructions

An important component of this class is your 100-point research project on a type of alternative energy. You will choose your specific topic on Tuesday, September 1. Complete your research early so that you can focus on the remaining parts of the assignment (writing the abstract, creating the PowerPoint, practicing your presentation) as the semester progresses.

The following items must be addressed, but you are also encouraged to incorporate additional relevant information.

- how the energy is harnessed for use (basics of the science and technology involved)
- how it is currently being used (in what ways and to what extent; also describe technological, economic, cultural or other hurdles that have prevented it from being more widely adopted thus far)
- specific examples of noteworthy projects that have been established using this energy source, or are being developed
- benefits and drawbacks associated with obtaining and using it (its pros and cons, as compared to other types of energy)
- whether or not you think it is a viable alternative to fossil fuels and (if so) to what degree and in what way(s) – be sure to support your point of view with data

A minimum of 5 sources must be consulted. You can obtain information from the textbook, reputable websites, research organizations such as NREL, current events articles, etc. Be cautious with searching the web for information, as you need to avoid using unreliable or overly biased sources, such as corporation sites or special interest groups. If you're unsure about the suitability of a site or a publication, ask me!

Proper citations are required for every piece of information (including images used in your presentation), so keep track of all the details about where you find everything. You will use either the hyperlink or the (Author, Date) style of citation for each fact and image when it appears in your presentation, and a full bibliography in either the MLA or APA style at the end.

Your grade for this project will be based on 2 components: (1) the quality of your abstract – 20 points; and (2) the content and delivery of your presentation – 80 points. A detailed breakdown can be found in the grading sheet on the following page.

Your final abstract and PowerPoint presentations need to be submitted digitally using the Dropbox function in D2L. They are due **NO LATER THAN NOON on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17**. Be sure to allow plenty of time for uploading in case you run into technical difficulties, as no extensions will be given. Presentations will take place in class that same day. Bring a printed copy of your abstract as well as a "handout" copy of the presentation to turn in to me at the start of the class. If you do not know how to obtain this, or how to use PowerPoint in general, be sure to seek help well in advance of the due date.

ABSTRACT (20 points max)

Preparatory Work (10 points)

- _____ Active participation in Scientific Abstracts Activity in class (3 points)
- _____ 3 printed copies of draft submitted at start of class on due date (1 point)
- _____ Constructive comments made on drafts of 2 classmates (2 points)
- _____ Your draft shows progress made on research and effort in writing (4 points)

Final Version (10 points)

- _____ Quality of content (5 points)
- _____ Quality and style of writing (5 points)

PRESENTATION: CONTENT (50 points max)

Accuracy, Detail, and Completeness (30 points max – see instructions for details of what is needed)

- _____ Harnessing the energy (6 points)
- _____ Current usage and hurdles (6 points)
- _____ Specific project examples (6 points)
- _____ Benefits and drawbacks (6 points)
- _____ Supported opinion on viability (6 points)

Quality of Research & References (20 points max)

- _____ At least 5 high-quality sources consulted (5 points)
- _____ Bibliography of references included as last slide in presentation (5 points)
- _____ Bibliography in standard & consistent format (5 points)
- _____ Citations properly used – hyperlink or (Author, Date) for every fact and image on each slide (5 points)

PRESENTATION: DELIVERY (30 points max)

_____ **Oral Delivery (5 points max)**

eye contact, speaking clearly, not too fast or slow, audible, minimal faltering, correct pronunciation, etc.

_____ **Putting in Own Words (5 points max)**

not reading directly from notes or on-screen text, no quotes from sources

_____ **Visuals (5 points max)**

mostly figures with minimal text, large font, no spelling mistakes, high-quality visible graphics, etc.

_____ **Clarity, Demonstration of Understanding (5 points max)**

obviously revised and practiced presentation, can tell you know what you're talking about, able to answer questions

_____ **Timing and Organization (5 points max)**

info presented in a logical sequence, no less than 10 and no more than 15 minutes long

_____ **Submission Guidelines Met (5 points max)**

everything submitted in required format (print and/or digital), final abstract as .doc, .docx, or .rtf, PowerPoint as .ppt or .pptx

Additional Comments:

Total Points: _____

NOTE: No late work will be accepted! If your abstract draft is not submitted by the start of class on the due date, or your final abstract and presentation are not submitted on D2L by noon on the day of the presentation, you will not receive any credit!