

Natural World Research Paper

“The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction.”

~Rachel Carson

Explanation: A research paper gives you the opportunity to gather and synthesize information from a variety of sources. You can focus on one overall topic and combine the information from these different sources to discuss this idea.

Prompt: In this paper, you will need to research and find information to answer the question: **How do humans affect the natural world?** Create a *point of tension* by acknowledging the other side of the argument (concession) in your thesis, using words such as: although, even though, however, while, despite, but, or, yet. The point of your thesis is to make an arguable claim about how humans affect the natural world (either in a positive or negative way).

For example: Keep in mind the ideas that people don't pay attention and people only take what benefits them.

Requirements:

- **Fully developed** essay that covers the topic well and clearly addresses the question
- **Incorporate evidence (direct quote or paraphrase)** from at least **two (2)** of the pieces we read in class:
 - “Called Out” by Barbara Kingsolver
 - “Starfish” by Lorna Dee Cervantes
 - “Sea Stars” by Barbara Hurd
 - from “Hope for Animals and Their World” by Jane Goodall
 - “My Life as a Bat” by Margaret Atwood
- *Also need to include evidence from **either** of these (it's okay to include both)
 - TED Talk: “Climate change is happening” by Alice Bows-Larking
 - Newspaper article: “Climate change could result in 100M poor”
- *Also need to include **two (2) articles** from the databases (one positive and one negative).
- *Need to have at least 3 direct quotes and 3 paraphrases – shoot for **2 pieces of evidence per body paragraph**
- *Evidence must support the thesis and connect to the other texts
- **MLA Format:** Heading, header/page numbers, 1” margins, title, size 12 Times New Roman, etc.
- **Must include proper Works Cited page and in-text citations.**
- **Need to have** at least 5 strong paragraphs (Intro, 3 body paragraphs, conclusion)

See other side for Rubric

Rubric:

Ideas and Content (45 pts)

- Strong thesis that makes an arguable claim – 10 points
- Provides a concession paragraph that acknowledges other side – 5 points
- Strong topic sentences that connect back to thesis – 5 points
- Provides strong and specific evidence from required sources and formats – 20 points
- Summarizes findings in the conclusion – 5 points

Organization and Structure (15 pts)

- Follows a clear and consistent pattern of organization – 10 points
- Uses transitional words and phrases to clarify relationships – 5 points

Sentence Fluency (10 pts)

- Sentence Structure: Sentences are structured clearly and correctly (no fragments or run-ons)
- Sentence Length: A combination of long and short sentences creates rhythm and variety
- Flow: The paper has a smooth flow at the sentence level

Word Choice & Voice (10 pts)

- Strong language: Throughout the piece, stronger word choice utilized to help emphasize and strengthen the connections made in the paper.
- Strong voice: Author uses strong words and phrases that really capture his/her voice and opinion on the topic.

Conventions & Presentation (20 pts)

- Spelling/Proofreading
- Proper Usage
- Awkward Sentences
- Uses MLA format properly
- Punctuation
- Consistent Verb Tense
- Capitalization