

Research & Writing Assignment on a Global Issue

Research, think about, and write about a global problem and possible solutions, using multiple sources of information

- **Research & Write** about a problem in the world, including solutions or ways to alleviate the problem
- **Use Multiple Sources** (*at least 2*) for the research
- **Collect & Organize** relevant important information using the note-taking and question worksheets
- **Summarize & Explain** the problems and concerns, the causes and effects, and any proposed solutions
- **Apply Skills** of analysis, evaluation, summarizing, synthesis, reasoning, persuasion, and other writing skills

The purpose of this writing assignment is to *inform and explain*, though it can also include *personal opinion and persuasion*.

The form of this writing assignment is an organized summary or essay, yet this can be styled with sections and bullet points. Alternatively, a powerpoint or a self-created webpage could be presented, if teacher approved.

Choices of research

- Research a global problem, issue or concern – learn *why* this is a problem, then explain & summarize the problem
- Research possible solutions to a problem – explain and summarize *how* these solutions will solve the problem
- Research both – a problem and its solutions

Other suggestions or additions to the above

- Explain a global problem in relation to an ethical concern or moral value
- Research political or social actions for solving a problem
- Research two different problems, explaining their related causes, inter-dependence, and related solutions
- Research two organizations helping to solve a global problem; explain what they do and why
- Research two kinds of jobs or careers helping to solve a global problem, including the education & skills needed

Teacher approval

The topic and research sources need to be teacher approved; so first submit a brief description of the issue or problem to be researched, including 3-5 possible sources of information.

Researching the internet – assignment guidelines

First Steps – (have paper or a worksheet for note-taking)

- 1) from a list of global topics, write down one topic of interest
- 2) next, write down 2-3 specific issues within this general topic, issues you are concerned about or interested in
- 3) next, make an internet search for websites and organizations with information on these issues or problems
- 4) find at least 3 informative websites for each issue; look over each of these websites to see which ones are most interesting and informative, and make note of how are they related
- 5) write down each of these website addresses for use later on

Choose one specific issue for a research & writing assignment

- 1) search for a few more information sites on your chosen issue – based on: easy to understand & relevant to your interest
- 2) use the student worksheets for note-taking and key questions
- 3) make notes of key information & facts from each source; also make notes of your own thinking about the issue
- 4) outline the important information from each source
- 5) begin to write a summary of the information, along with your own understanding and opinions

Internet searches

The most popular search tools show an abundance of related websites; some links are informative but other links are trying to sell things.

Look for websites from educational sites or government agencies. *

Also read the handout (p 35), *Evaluating an Information Source*, for how to choose a relevant and reliable information source.

* EducationForWorldSolutions.org only shows informational website links

From each Information Source –

Read, Understand, Think, Take Notes

- Read carefully, understand what is being communicated, and think about each part and the overall of it
- what are the main topics?
- what are the main problems?
- what's important to the authors, important to know and do, and why do you think it's important to them?
- what is their proposed solution or right action?

Make an outline *(or an idea-web)*

- of how the website information is organized
- show the main topics and sub-topics
- summarize key problems and causes
- summarize proposed solution(s) and ways of action

Identify

- their purpose or thesis, or their reasons for publishing
- main concerns, problems, ideas, and suggested actions
- important facts & evidence, related causes & effects
- opinions, persuasions, reasoning, & emotional appeal
- beliefs, values & ethical concerns; explicit or implicit
- any perceived bias or prejudice, or unreasonable beliefs
- ways to solve the problem, or actions to alleviate it
- suggested ways to help or to participate in group action

Show your Skills *(in the writing assignment)*

- *communicate* what you have read and understand, including your own ideas, values, and solutions
- *show* your references & provide citations in your writing
- *use* exposition, summary, analysis, synthesis, persuasion
- *explain* the situation or problem, the context, causes and consequences, practical solutions and the need for action
- *ask & answer* what is, how it occurs, why care, what to do
- *summarize* the source's information, their main concerns, reasons for concern, and proposed solutions
- *distinguish* between facts, inferences, and opinions
- *provide* evidence and examples to support your summary
- *evaluate* the source's arguments and proposals, reasoning and conclusions, usefulness and importance
- *evaluate* the source's credibility and validity –give reasons *why* you believe this, and *why* you agree (or not) with it
- *compare* the similarities and differences, in your sources
- *synthesize* all of the learned information, concerns, ideas; which is to combine, integrate, simplify, and organize it all (including your own ideas)
- *persuade*, with reason & facts, the importance of this problem, the need to do something, and what to do
- *critical thinking* applied in both the study and writing