

Marine Science Research Paper

Each student is expected to perform individual research, formulate an outline of the material, write a formal research paper, and perform a group presentation on a specific topic.

Major Deadlines

Formal Outline DUE: **October 25, 2013**
Rough Draft and Sources DUE: **November 18, 2013**
Final Research Paper DUE: **December 6, 2013**

* Assignments turned in late lose one letter grade (10%) each day after the deadline

General Requirements

- Typed, double-spaced, 12 Font Times New Roman, 1" margins
- Include title page, abstract, body, discussion, and reference page
- 7-8 pages in length (including title page, abstract and reference page)
- Use **APA** style for ALL referencing
- **Minimum** 5 references – only 2 may be *reputable* web sources. Others must come from books, journals, magazines, databases, etc. At least 3 sources must come from the Gulliver Library Databases
- **In-text citations as well as a "References" page**
- Use proper grammar and spelling
- You will turn a hardcopy of your paper as well as send me a copy via internet (2 copies total)

Reputable Sources:

Students are expected to cite all of their sources both in-text and on a reference page. They are also expected to use only reputable sources. Below is a list of reputable sources:

- Scientific journals
- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Books
- Websites ending in .gov or .edu
- Interview with an expert in the field (i.e. professor of marine ecology)

A note on plagiarism: All papers will be run through Gulliver's plagiarism software.

According to the Gulliver Student Handbook, plagiarism is considered cheating and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is using other sources' material, ideas, data, etc. without properly citing them in your paper. Any student caught plagiarizing his/her research paper will receive a **zero** and be referred to the administration for academic dishonesty.

Expected Format and Content

Outline (50 points) Classwork Grade

The outline should show the specific format of each area you will discuss in your final written report. Each subject area that you will discuss should have a **specific heading** and a few sentences **describing the subject**. The outline should be 1-2 pages long and it must be typed.

Research Paper (100 points) Project/Test Grade

The final paper will be graded on content, format and grammar. The paper must follow APA format.

It must contain the following:

1. **Title Page:** Choose an informative title and avoid titles that do not describe the topic. Center the title on the page. Include your name, the full date, the school name, course, and teacher name centered below the title (see picture). No pictures.

Title

2. **Abstract:** An abstract directly follows the title page, with the word “Abstract” centered above the paragraph. It is a summary of your report, 75-100 words. It is the last thing written, after the entire paper has been written.
3. **Introduction:** The introduction presents the objective or goal of your paper. It must contain a thesis statement.
4. **Body of the paper:** The body paragraph presents the results of your research. It should follow an organized and logical order. As you are basing your information on the work of others, you must document everything that you borrow (even if it is just an idea and not a “quote”). An **in text citation** should be a “parenthetical reference”. This is the **author’s name and year of publication in parenthesis following each quote or borrowed information.**
5. **Discussion:** In this section you must be original and come to a logical conclusion regarding your thesis statement. State your *conclusions, opinions and suggestions for future studies* regarding your subject.
6. **Conclusion:** You must wrap up your paper in one paragraph. Briefly reiterate your main points. Should be 4-7 sentences.
7. **References:** Include all references used in preparing your paper. Again, use the APA style of referencing. A minimum of **5 references** must be used. **References must include at least *three* book, magazine or journal citations.**

There are many threats to the ecological health of the ocean. Just a few are listed below as possible topics to research. Your research should answer the following questions:

- What is the background of your issue (exactly what is the problem?)
- What is the history of this concern?
- How did this issue first come into public awareness?
- What are some current statistics and examples regarding your issue?
- What are some steps being taken regarding your issue (laws, environmental action groups, regulations, petitions, etc)
- Is there any opposing opinions regarding this concern? (What is the second side of the story...)
- Discussion- What is your opinion of the issue? What are some realistic possible solutions? What aspects must be considered when tackling this issue?

Threats to our Ocean

Habitat loss/Coastal Development
 Pollution
 Invasive species
 Demand for wildlife products
 Tourism impact on marine ecosystems
 Climate Change

Possible Topics

Chemical Pollution	Global Climate Change	Longline Fishing
Eutrophication/Dead Zones	Coral Diseases/Bleaching	Ocean Acidification
Invasive Marine Species	By-Catch	Whaling
Oil Spills	Sea Turtle Poaching	Shark Population Reduction
Noise Pollution/Sonar	Estuary Draining	Coastal Wetland Destruction
Marine Debris	Aquaculture	Overfishing

You are free to investigate other threatened or endangered organisms, but it must be approved by Szpak prior to beginning research. This investigative process should be done while completing assignment #1.