Environmental Science Research Paper Instructions

List of Sources
You should begin looking for sources as soon as your topic is approved. Sources can include books, journals, magazines, Internet, encyclopedias, etc. Your paper must include a minimum of 5 sources, including at least 1 book and at least 3 of which must be non-Internet. (Remember that just because it’s on the Internet does not mean it’s true.) It would be advisable to find more than 5 sources for your list of sources because you may not actually use all of the sources you find at this point when you actually write your paper. A list of possible sources is due during week 6.

Citations
On a separate handout you will find the instructions on how to do citations for this class. Be sure to read it carefully as science does not follow the standards for citations you are taught in English classes. Ask the instructor if you have any questions.

Be sure that you follow any information that was taken from a source with a citation. Even when cited, your paper must be completely in your own words. If you need to use an exact quote then it must be in quotations and cited immediately following the quotations. Otherwise, you are plagiarizing, a very serious offense at the college level! Since this is a research paper, much of the information will be from sources; your paper should be full of citations. If you reuse the same source, you must re-cite it every time it is used. A single source being used for an extensive part of the paper should be cited at least once per paragraph.

Some Helpful Guidelines:
1. Anything that you learned while researching your topic MUST be cited if used in your paper! If you fail to cite, you are plagiarizing.
2. The first time you mention an organism in the paper you must put its scientific name immediately following, in parenthesis. You only need to do this the first time you mention the organism.
3. Your paper should have 3 main sections: introduction, body, and conclusion. The INTRODUCTION should get the reader’s attention and interest. Make your topic sound interesting enough that the reader will want to continue reading your paper. The introduction should also outline the rest of the paper. The BODY is the main part of your paper where you explain and discuss your topic. Your body should follow the outline laid out in the introduction. The CONCLUSION wraps up the paper and ties it all together. It should also re-assert the main points of the paper.
4. Use transitions between paragraphs to make the paper flow smoothly.
5. Write your paper in the 3rd person, not 1st or 2nd person.
6. Do not use contractions in a formal paper.
7. Proof read, Proof read, Proof read!!!! Set the paper down for a few days and then proof read it again, you will be amazed not only at how the mistakes pop out, but also at paragraphs that do not flow smoothly and sentences that do not make sense.
8. Save your work on the computer. Never type it, print it, and erase it off the computer. I get very tired of hearing, “The only copy of my paper is in the back of my sister’s car which is back in Colorado with my sister.”

9. Spell check does not catch everything. The following sentence will go right through a spell checker. Form hear too their is to far too go in won day. (If ewe sea nothing wrong with these sentences, please seek the help of the English department.)

Rubric
A sample rubric has been included. The points will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>5 pts.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>List of Sources</td>
<td>15 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization/style</td>
<td>25 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support/content</td>
<td>25 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mechanics</td>
<td>15 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Citations</td>
<td>15 pts.</td>
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