**Task:**

You will respond to one of the prompts below. You will write a persuasive essay giving evidence as to why your argument is supported. You must use REPUTABLE and SCIENTIFIC sources to collect your evidence. You must cite at LEAST five separate sources! ***You must hand in this rubric (complete with the grade you would give yourself in each category) with your final paper for full credit!***

**Prompts:**

1. President Obama has proposed a $10 a barrel tax on oil. This money would be used to encourage clean energy innovation and upgrade the nation’s transportation systems. Do you support or oppose the $10 a barrel tax?
2. Should Inuit in Greenland be allowed to export seal products to the United States? These products include seal meat, seal fur coats, and other seal based products.
3. Should Detroit continue to operate the Detroit Waste Incinerator (also known as the Detroit Renewable Power facility)?
4. Asian carp are an invasive species of fish that have invaded the Great Lakes. Propose a solution for dealing with these fish.

1. Why is 48217 the most polluted zip code in Michigan? What are some steps that can be taken to ameliorate this situation? Does Marathon have a responsibility to do more to help the community?
2. Should Enbridge Energy pay more for the 2010 oil spill near Kalamazoo Michigan?
3. Should genetically modified foods be allowed in our food supply? If you think they should, how can we use them safely? If you oppose genetically modified foods, then what are some alternative solutions to help keep food affordable and healthy for everyone?

**Timeline**

* May 4th – Pick a Topic
* May 11th – Thesis Statement and Outline Due
* May 18th – Final Draft Due
* May 25th, 26th - Presentations

**Rubric:**

**Introduction:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_/20** Background information: 20 pts

* State the environmental issue that you are addressing
* Helps to have some kind of “catch” to get the readers attention
* Include information about the causes and effects
* Appropriate citations

**\_\_\_\_\_\_/10** Thesis statement: 10 pts

* Give your stance and at least three pieces of evidence that support your stance (this is usually the last sentence of your introductory paragraph)

**Body:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_/48** Each body paragraph expands on one of the pieces of evidence (should have at least 3 paragraphs here) of your thesis statement: 48 pts

* Each paragraph should have 3-4 statements/examples illustrating your evidence
* Include evidence AGAINST your position (for example “Those that believe \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is not a problem explain this evidence as a result of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, this is not a valid argument because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”)
* Appropriate citations included within

**Conclusion:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/22** Restate your thesis statement and summarize why it is supported while the opposing view is refuted. (22 pts)

* All points are briefly summarized
* Usually have some kind of “clincher”, this is your last chance to persuade the reader

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/100 Total Score**

**Some useful websites:**

<http://www.michigan.gov/dnr> (if you type DNR into google you will get a result for each state, not just MI, they are all reputable)

[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) (Environmental Protection Agency)

[www.msue.msu.edu](http://www.msue.msu.edu) (Michigan State extension page)

[extn.msu.montana.edu](http://www.extn.msu.montana.edu) (Montana State extension page) (if you type University Extension into Google you will get several University extension pages, these will all be good as well.)

[www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us) (US Forest Service)

[www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au) (Australian Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts)

[www.nbii.gov](http://www.nbii.gov) (National Biological Information Infrastructure)

Basically any .gov or .edu will be a reputable website with good information. If you are wondering if the website you are using is reputable just ask.

**How to create your bibliography:**

Citation methods for internet sources should also use author/year format. Please follow APA guidelines.

First state the author’s name followed by the year. Next, list the website or title page of access page, then the URL followed by the access date.

Ex:

Stoddard, M. 1995. AHSL Educational Services. [http://amber.medlib.arizona.edu/homepage.html. Accessed 16](http://amber.medlib.arizona.edu/homepage.html.%20Accessed%2016), Mar. 1995.

**In-Text Citations:**

Within your paper you would follow the sentence in which you used the information gained from this author with the authors name in parenthesis followed by the date.

Ex:

Higher levels of CO2 have already caused ocean acidification, and scientists are warning of potentially devastating effects on marine life and fisheries (Stoddard, 1995)

General Guidelines

Five Paragraph Essay

**The first paragraph:**  
  
1) Begins with a topic sentence that introduces a general theme.  
2) Follows the topic sentence with sentences that narrow the focus of the theme, so that it is less general.  
3) Narrows the discussion of the topic by identifying an issue or problem.  
4) Finishes by making a debatable claim a thesis statement, which is defined as a debatable point/claim. The thesis should be the final sentence of the introductory paragraph.  
  
**Body paragraphs:**  
  
1) Begin with topic sentences that clearly relate to the topic that was identified in the introductory paragraph.  
2) Sentences that elaborate on the issue, or problem discussed in the introductory paragraph, and also demonstrates a clear connection to the thesis statement.  
3) A sentence or sentences that make a claim about the topic, issue, problem.  
4) A quote from the text you are analyzing that supports your claim.  
5) Your interpretation of that quote, which explains how you arrived at your conclusion, and also demonstrates a clear connection to the thesis statement.   
  
Body paragraphs employ the One, Two, Three Rule, which is:  
  
1) Make a debatable claim.  
2) Support the claim with a strong piece of evidence.  
3) Explain the connection between your claim and the evidence, which means you make an intellectual conclusion.  
  
**Concluding paragraph:**  
  
1) Begins with a topic sentence that clearly relates to the topic, or issue, or problem, that was identified in the introductory paragraph.  
2) Sentences that make connections with, or revisit, points from your introductory paragraph and your body paragraphs.  These points now serve to close your argument.  
3) A synthesis of these points that clearly demonstrates the focus of your thesis statement.  
4) A final comment, or intellectual conclusion of sorts that points out the larger significance of your argument.   
  
**Things to avoid when writing scientific papers:**

* Do not use contractions.
* Do not use first person pronouns such as “I” “me” “my.”
* Do not use second person pronouns such as “you” “your” “yours.”
* Do not engage in personal stories (stories of your own life experiences, or the experiences of friends, family, and so on).
* Do not begin sentences with conjunctions: but, and, or, nor, for, so, yet.
* Do not pose any questions. This means, quite literally, not to use questions. Make statements instead.
* Do not quote the bible or allude to religion in any way.
* Avoid any form of direct address to the reader, such as "think about the fact that . . ."
* Avoid too casual of a prose style, such as sentences that begin with words like "well, sure, now, yes, no."