

Section 6: Your Sc"APES"book

In environmental science, it is important to know about current issues in the news. One of my goals for this course is to familiarize you with environmental issues that are important to our community, our country, and our world. We will be reading and discussing a variety of current events throughout the school year as well. This is a great opportunity for you to start thinking about the environment and how it affects you. Over the course of the summer, find ONE recent article related to Environmental Science. **This is an ongoing project and will not be completed until the end of the 1st semester. You will be starting your ScrAPESbook (nice play on the word scrapbook!) as part of your summer assignment. DO NOT lose these directions as you will need to refer to them throughout the semester/school year.**

Guidelines for Preparing, Organizing, and Completing your ScrAPESbook

You are to create a bound scrapbook style book (style/format of your choice)

- The cover of the book needs to be decorated creatively **using recycled materials** you find at home and school (creativity/neatness is important here).
- A title and your name should be on the front cover of your book.
- All pages in the journal should be numbered in the lower right-hand corner. All writing must be legible and either written in black or blue ink or typed. Do not forget to decorate and make the inside of your book look nice!

What goes inside the book?

Look through newspapers, magazines, radio transcripts, scientific journals, and the internet for articles about environmental science, with a minimum of 5 articles per semester. For your summer assignment you will be starting your ScrAPESbook with the first article.

Requirements regarding articles:

- (a) Articles must be the **original form (not an article about an article) from a science-related journal (Scientific American Nature, National Geographic etc.)** newspaper, magazine, good internet source (Science Daily, etc.) and the articles should not all be from the same source)
- (b) All articles **must pertain to Environmental Science** and have significant science content. Do not include advertisements, pure opinion pieces, or light reviews of other articles.
- (c) The date and source of the article must be included on the page with the article.
- (d) If the article is too large to fit on one page, cut and paste as needed and put it on more than one page.
- (e) Articles should be neatly cut out and taped, stapled, or glued into the journal. **Your writing should be on a separate page in front of the article.**

Section 6: Your Sc"APES"book

Article Topics

Your articles need to be about the following topics, in order (you are required to complete the first article for your summer assignment).

1. **Sustainability:** Forests, fishing, agriculture, natural resources, steps towards using renewable resources, improvements in recycling, producing less waste as a country, etc.
2. **Population:** Growth, TFR, Stabilization, Governmental policy to control, education and impact on population growth, birth control methods, etc.
3. **Agriculture:** U.S. farmers, government incentives, change of harvest, setbacks, national reform, current problems, import/export of goods, new discoveries, etc.
4. **Fishing:** Regulations, Laws, problems with lack of fish due to environmental reason, weather (El Nino) effecting productivity, overfishing, low GNP for country, aquaculture, etc.
5. **Fossil Fuels:** Mining, oil depletion, government problem with resources, oil dependency, and coal use, ANWR, conservation efforts, etc.
6. **Toxins:** Mercury or Lead poisoning (in water, paints, toys), Restaurant food poisoning, Botox in beauty cosmetics, nuclear storage or removal, MSDS, hazards at work due to exposure, recalled toys or household items, etc.
7. **Water Use:** Michigan Lakes depletion, world use, water deficits in U.S. or other countries, problems/affects with droughts, drinking water issues, projected shortages, etc. **OR Land Use:** Forest fires, management, overgrazing, deforestation (not only in U.S.), land development, national parks
8. **Air Pollution:** indoor air, companies improving quality of office air, acid deposition, smog, remediation or reduction strategies, Clean Air Act or relevant laws, etc. **OR Water Pollution:** Pollution in lakes or groundwater, maintaining water quality, sewage or septic systems, toxins, agricultural or mining runoff, effects of water pollution on ecosystems or habitats, etc.
9. **Pesticides:** Control of, IPM, laws, problems in agriculture, companies facing serious issues due to pests, invasive species, etc.
10. **Global Warming:** Changes companies are implementing to reduce emissions. Governmental laws enforcing state or national change to reduce emissions, etc.

Section 6: Your Sc"APES"book

Format for Current Event Summary/Review (include all of the following components and clearly identify each component – Following the title, label as (b) Summary, (c) Analysis, etc.

- (a) **Title:** Clearly list the topic I have assigned
- (b) **Summary:** Give a brief summary of the article (1-2 paragraphs)
- (c) **Analysis (Include and clearly label each of the following parts of your analysis)**
 1. **Points of view** - Does the article give two different points of view? Yes or No If yes, what are they?
 2. **Bias** - The order in which information is presented and the amount of text devoted to influencing a reader's opinion is called bias. Is this article biased, and if so, which way is the article biased (slanted)? In your opinion does the author give a positive, negative or neutral view of the environmental science topic? Explain.
 3. **Controversy** - Is there any controversy surrounding this article? If so, briefly state it.
- (d) **Your perspective?** State your perspective on this news article based on your personal knowledge of the topic and your reading of this article.
- (e) **Effect on you?** How does this topic affect you or how does it relate to your life?

You are NOT TO place this section in your APES envelope. This information regarding criteria, formatting, and topics will be used as a reference page throughout the year.

Section 6: Your Sc"APES"book

Rubric for Environmental Science Current Events Article Assignment

Criteria	5 - Excellent	4 - Good	3 - Satisfactory	2 - Needs Improvement	1 - Poor
Article Relevance	Article directly pertains to the assigned environmental science topic, highly relevant to community, country, or world issues	Article mostly pertains to the correct topic with minor deviations	Article somewhat relates to the topic but includes some unrelated information	Article barely relates to the topic, with significant irrelevant content	Article does not pertain to the assigned topic
Title Clarity	Topic is clearly and accurately stated in the title of the summary	Topic is stated in the title but could be clearer	Topic is somewhat indicated in the title but lacks clarity	Title is vague and does not clearly state the topic	Title does not mention the topic
Labeling of Parts a, b, c, d, e	All parts a, b, c, d, and e are clearly labeled with accurate organization	Most parts are labeled clearly, minor labeling inconsistencies	Some parts labeled, but several are missing or unclear	Few parts labeled, labels are often missing or unclear	No parts labeled or labeling is completely missing
Neatness and Grammar	All parts are neat and free of grammatical errors	Mostly neat with very few grammatical errors	Generally neat with some noticeable grammatical errors	Presentation is messy and contains frequent grammatical errors	Poorly presented with many grammatical errors
Summary Thoroughness	Summary covers all important points thoroughly and accurately	Summary covers most important points with minor omissions	Summary is somewhat complete but misses some key points	Summary is incomplete and lacks important details	Summary is very incomplete or missing key information
Labeling of Analysis Parts 1, 2, and 3	All analysis parts 1, 2, and 3 are clearly labeled and well-organized	Most analysis parts labeled clearly, minor inconsistencies	Some analysis parts labeled, but others missing or unclear	Few analysis parts labeled, labels are often missing or unclear	No analysis parts labeled, or labeling is completely missing
Analysis Thoroughness	Analysis thoroughly covers all three required areas with detailed insights	Analysis covers most areas with adequate detail	Analysis covers some areas but lacks depth	Analysis is superficial and covers few areas	Analysis is missing or does not cover the required areas
Clarity of Personal Perspective	Personal perspective is clearly stated and well-explained	Personal perspective is stated but lacks full clarity	Personal perspective is mentioned but unclear or incomplete	Personal perspective is minimally stated or confusing	No personal perspective is stated
Impact Statement	The effect the article has on the student is clearly stated and thoughtfully explained	The effect is stated but explanation lacks depth	The effect is mentioned but unclear or vague	The effect is minimally addressed	No statement of the article's effect on the student

TOTAL POINTS: _____ / 45

Design & create your scr"ape"book and mark it completed on your checklist.

You will turn in the first article attached within your scr"ape"book on the first day of class along with this rubric -separate from the APES envelope.