**Environmental Science Current Events Article Summary**

Environmental science is a study of current events. As new technologies develop, as politics change, and as the human population grows, our impact and influence on the environmental also changes.

For this assignment, you are to find a recent (less than 5 years old) article addressing some aspect of environmental science that we have covered so far this year. Some good sources for articles are provided below:

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| --- | --- |
| **National Geographic** | <http://environment.nationalgeographic.com/environment/> |
| **Discover Magazine** | <http://discovermagazine.com/topics/environment> |
| **New York Times** | <http://www.nytimes.com/pages/science/earth/index.html> |
| **Smithsonian Magazine** | <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/> |
| **BBC News** | <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science_and_environment/> |
| **Scientific American** | <http://www.scientificamerican.com>  |

You will share a summary of the article and a reflection on the scientific principles the article addresses with your classmates. You can share this information through a tool such as powerpoint, prezi, etc.

Here are some possible topics to consider. This is not a complete list and you are highly encouraged to come up with your own search ideas!

**Ecosystems:**

Amazon Deforestation | Coral Reef Bleaching | Desertification | Endangered Species

**Food and Agriculture**

Food Recalls | Food Poisoning | Factory Farming | Organic Foods | Bovine Growth Hormone | GMOs

**Global Warming and Climate Change**

Ocean Acidification | Sea Level Rising | Melting Ice Caps | Droughts | Severe Flooding

**Human Health and Environmental Hazards**

Antibiotic Resistance | Hormone Disruptors | Carcinogens | Teratogens | Heavy Metals | Obesity

**Air Pollution**

Air Quality | Smog | Emissions Standards | Acid Rain | Particulates

**Water Pollution**

Biomagnification | Groundwater Contamination | Oil Spills | Impaired Waters

**Nonrenewable Energy**

Strip Mining | Underground Mining | Clean Coal | Deep Sea Drilling | Fracking | Nuclear Reactors | Energy Efficiency

**Renewable Energy**

Solar Cells | Biofuel | Wind Farms | Fuel Cells

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**Grading Rubric**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **Outstanding** | **Very Good**  | **Satisfactory** | **Missing or Incomplete**  | ***Score*** |
| **Article Choice** | Article selected is current (less than 5 years old), covers a topic from class, and is from an approved source. | Article is current and covers a relevant topic, but may be short or not from an appropriate source. | Article is not from an appropriate source, short or does not adequately cover a topic from class. May be outdated.  | Article is not from an appropriate source and may be outdated. Does not cover a topic from class. |  **/4** |
| **Written Summary** | Written summary covers all aspects of the article in the student’s own words. Summary is organized and easy to follow. | Most aspects of the article are covered by the summary, or it is not fully organized. | Only some aspects of the article are covered. Organization of summary may be incomplete. | Written summary covers few to no concepts within the article. Little original thought and organization. |  **/20** |
| **Reflection** | Student relates specific scientific concepts from the article to those learned in class. Scientific concepts are related directly to one or more Environmental Science standards | Most of the scientific concepts of the article are related to those in class. A concept from the article is related to an Environmental Science standard. | Not all scientific concepts in article are successfully related to class. An Environmental Science standard is used, but with some errors. | Few or no connections are made between the scientific concepts in the article and from class. Standards are not referred. |  **/20** |
| **Language Conventions** | Written summary has no grammatical or spelling mistakes. | Written summary has 1-2 minor grammatical or spelling mistakes. | Written summary has 3-4 grammatical or spelling mistakes. | Written summary has more than 4 spelling or grammatical mistakes. |  **/5** |
| **Source**  | Source of article is given in proper APA formatting.  | Source is given in APA format but may have one error or piece of missing information. | Source is given in APA format but has two errors or missing pieces of information. | Source is not in APA format or has multiple errors. |  **/1** |
|  **Total = / 50** |  |  |  |  |  |
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