**WHAT CAN AN 8TH GRADER DO?**

Dear Students,

Over the next few weeks you will be researching, planning and implementing a project that will serve to better our community and the Earth. This project will revisit the biodiversity, sustainability and climate change concepts discussed during the school year. You will earn service learning hours for the completion of this project, which will fulfill part of the service learning hours required by the state of Maryland.

The project entails you planning and carrying out a community-based environmental action plan. You must provide evidence (video, photos) of being actively engaged in your service project. You will keep and submit a log documenting all your work. You will have 2 weeks to carry out and fulfill your plan. We anticipate you spend at least 2 hours performing the task you selected.

This packet outlines the expectations and teachers’ web page provides possible project ideas. You will earn process and product grades for each part of the project. Included in this letter is a timeline to make sure you stay on track through the duration of the project. There will be opportunities to revise your work (based on teacher feedback) before a final product grade is earned. You will be assembling a Weebly page (weebly.com) to showcase your work. All work will be submitted on your personal Weebly website. No paper copies will be accepted. We will show you in class how to set up a Weebly page and navigate through the site. You will present your Weebly website to the class and discuss your project in June. This presentation will be the final exam grade.

There will be opportunity to work in class but there will be work that is required to be completed OUTSIDE of class. This project will be done as individual work and each student will have their own page and work that is unique to you. **No group web pages will be accepted**.

We are confident in your ability to design and implement a meaningful project that will better our community and the health of the Earth. We look forward to seeing what you do and how you do it.

Sincerely,

Kristin Skiados

Nmsgrade8science.weebly.com

Beth Megonigal

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**PROJECT REQUIREMENTS**

* Weebly Page
  + We will set this up in class
  + All project work will be submitted on weebly
* Community-based Action
  + Must require you to physically carry out the plan you develop
  + Must provide evidence (video, photos) of you actively engaged in your service to the community
  + Must keep and submit a log (on weebly) documenting all of your work.
* Class Presentation
  + June 4-9 – All projects must be completed prior to June 4. Late projects will be penalized.
  + Present from weebly page
  + Counts as final exam

**WEEBLY PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS**

**Page 1 – Introduction**

* Introduces the question/topic of action plan (includes the reasons **why** you chose the question/topic and **what/how** the community will benefit.
* Must include 2 pictures relating to question/topic
* Must be a minimum of 400 words
* Typed directly on weebly page; no attachments.

**Page 2 - Research with annotated bibliography**

* Research should support the question/topic of action plan
* Minimum of 3 sources
* Research must be typed directly on weebly page, along with annotated bibliography; no attachments.
* Research must be a minimum of 4 paragraphs: 1 introduction paragraph, 2-3 main body of the research, 1 closing paragraph OR you can chose to do at least 4 questions related to your project with paragraph length answers.

Annotated Bibliography Format for a variety of source

***Website***

For example: “Definition and Quotes about Music Therapy.” American Music Therapy Association. AMTA, n.d. Web. 10 Apr. 2015. <http://www.musictherapy.org/about/quotes/>.

A **summary annotation** describes the source by answering the following questions: who wrote the document, what the document discusses, when and where was the document written, why was the document produced, and how was it provided to the public. The focus is on description.

***Video***

* Author Unknown

Example: All Aces Media. (2012, January 19). Often awesome the series [Video file]. Retrieved from <http://vimeo.com/35311255>

A **summary annotation** describes the source by answering the following questions: who wrote the document, what the document discusses, when and where was the document written, why was the document produced, and how was it provided to the public. The focus is on description.

* Known Author

Owen, D. (1967). The Ernie game [Video file]. Retrieved from NFB Education.now

A **summary annotation** describes the source by answering the following questions: who wrote the document, what the document discusses, when and where was the document written, why was the document produced, and how was it provided to the public. The focus is on description.

***Blog (Must be science-based)***

Dobbs, D. (2012, June 13). Fun in cities: Feature, not bug [Web log post]. Retrieved from http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2012/06/fun-in-cities-feature-not-bug/

**Note**: If the blog author's real name is not provided, use their username instead.

A **summary annotation** describes the source by answering the following questions: who wrote the document, what the document discusses, when and where was the document written, why was the document produced, and how was it provided to the public. The focus is on description.

***Online Article***

Flachs, A. (2010). Food for thought: The social impact of community gardens in the Greater Cleveland Area. Electronic Green Journal, 1(30). Retrieved from http://escholarship.org/uc/item/6bh7j4z4

A **summary annotation** describes the source by answering the following questions: who wrote the document, what the document discusses, when and where was the document written, why was the document produced, and how was it provided to the public. The focus is on description.

**Page 3 – Action Plan**

What steps are you going to take to carry out your action plan?

* List of materials and how each will be used
* Step-by-step directions for designing an apparatus (ex. Steps in building a flower box)
* A list of steps you will take to carry out your project in the community
* Must be typed directly on weebly page; no attachments
* Log MUST be included.
* At least 6 entries are required, 4 entries must be related to you actively carrying out your plan. At least 2 hours should be spent carrying out your plan.

This sample log can be created in Excel

Project Log

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Amount of Time Spent** | **What I did** |
| 14-May | 1 hour | Assembled 2 small flower boxes |
| 15-May | 45 min | Filled flowerboxes with soil/seeds/flowers. Hung flower boxes |
| 16-May | 30 min | Counted the # of insects landing on flowers, watered plants, recorded data |
| 17-May | 40 min | Counted the # of insects landing on flowers, recorded data |
| 18-May | 40 min | Counted the # of insects landing on flowers, watered plants, recorded data |
| 19-May | 40 min | Counted the # of insects landing on flowers, recorded data |

**Page 4 – Pictures/Video**

This is your proof that you have implemented your plan. The pictures and video should be uploaded to your weebly page. Pictures should be directly on page; not as an attachment. The videos can be either linked directly on the page or saved as a video file. This page should have the following:

* 3 pictures of your project from the beginning, middle and end
* 3 additional pictures of YOU working on your project from the beginning, middle, and end.

**OR**

* 2 videos representing the bulleted items above

**Page 5 – Reflection/Next Steps**

You will type a reflection paragraph that includes the following:

* Typed directly on the Weebly page; no attachments.
* A summary of your project. This should focus on **what** you did, **how** you did it and **why** you did it.
* What did you learn while doing the project? Connect curricular concepts relating to biodiversity, sustainability and global climate change.
* If you were assigned to extend this project into high school, what would your next step(s)be to make an even bigger difference in your community?

**Page 6 – Public Service Announcement (PSA)**

* Create a PSA about your project and the positive impacts in had on your community. You PSA can be in any of the following formats:
  + Video
  + Bobcat News Announcement (Must be approved beforehand)
  + Flier
  + Poster
  + Blog
* Your PSA must be uploaded on your Weebly page

**STUDENT TIMELINE**

**Week 1 – April 30 - May 4**

*The following pages are* ***due on or before May 4*** *for feedback. This is a* ***process grade. Product grade due date is May 11.***

* Page 1: Introduction – 10 points
* Page 2: Research and annotated bibliography – 20 points

**Week 2 - 3 – May 7 – May 18**

*The following pages are* ***due on or before May 18*** *for feedback. This is a* ***process grade. Product grade due date is May 25.***

* Page 3 – Action Plan (Design and implementation) – 20 points
* Page 4 – Upload Pictures/Video – 10 points

**Week 4 – May 21 – 25**

*The following pages are* ***due on or before May 25*** *for feedback. This is a* ***process grade. Product grade due date is June 2.***

* Page 5 – Reflection/Next Steps – 10 points
* Page 6 – PSA – 10 points