

What It Means to Be Green

Can you imagine the world without the beautiful variety of plants and animals that are familiar to us, with cars that can't run because there is no fuel source, or with water sources that are so full of chemicals that we can no longer filter and drink from them? Humans have many habits that are destructive to the world as we know it, even if we are unable to see those problems right now. What can you do to save our planet?

Project Tasks

1. In groups of three, choose an environmental issue that is relevant to your lives. It could be: alternative forms of energy, alternative fuel for cars, drilling for oil offshore or onshore, global warming, pesticides, genetically engineered crops, mountain-top removal, littering, water pollution, air pollution, endangered species of animals, or any other issue relating to the environment.
2. Create a plan of action to address the issue. This includes (1) defining the issue and (2) choosing a stance, even if it means that you believe the action is detrimental to the environment but helpful to a certain group of people. Use Google Drive for all of your writing so that all members of your group can contribute to the collaborative document.
3. Divide responsibilities among your group members, and research the issue until you feel that you are experts on the topic. This includes speaking to experts on the topic (professors in the agriculture or environmental departments at a local university would be good sources of information). Contact global organizations that take interest in your topic and consider the solutions that they suggest.
4. Create awareness of the issue. Document the impact of your effort. Complete the following activities:
 - ♦ Create a blog. Thoroughly inform people about the issue on the page, including a solution or plan of action for people to take. Spread the news about the page and encourage people to read it. You need at least ten other students to log into your blog and make comments about your plan.
 - ♦ Create a petition about your issue on the “We the People” webpage (<http://petitions.whitehouse.gov>). If there is already one created, then add your support to it.

Scoring Rubric

	1 SIGNIFICANT REVISION NEEDED	2 SOME REVISION NEEDED	3 PROFICIENT	4 EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS
Objective 1: Students will create a plan of action to solve an environmental issue.	- Group members failed to contact both an expert and a global organization and did not conduct any paper or electronic research. - The finished product is not appropriate for the task, purpose, and audience. Students did not collaborate to design a plan of action to solve their selected environmental issue, or plan is not logical and much work is needed. - Students did not post petitions concerning their environmental issue on “We the People” website.	- Group members failed to contact either an expert or a global organization, and the paper or electronic research is somewhat unreliable or incomplete. - The finished product is not entirely appropriate for the task, purpose, and audience. Students did not collaborate to design a plan of action to solve their selected environmental issue, or plan is incomplete. The solution needs more work. - Students post poorly-written petitions concerning their environmental issue on “We the People” website.	- Group members contacted experts on their topic and global organizations and conducted paper or electronic research by using reliable sources. - The finished product is appropriate for the task, purpose, and audience. Students collaborated with field experts to design a realistic plan of action to solve their selected environmental issue. Excellent, well thought-out solution with evidence of expert thought. - Students post well-developed petitions concerning their environmental issue on “We the People” website and monitor their petition for responses from others.	- Group members contacted experts on their topic and global organizations and conducted paper or electronic research by using reliable sources. - The finished product is appropriate for the task, purpose, and audience. Students collaborated with field experts to design a realistic plan of action to solve their selected environmental issue. Excellent, well thought-out solution with evidence of expert thought. - Students post well-developed petitions concerning their environmental issue on “We the People” website and monitor their petition for responses from others.
Objective 2: Students will design a blog about their environmental solution.	The solution plan was published on a poorly designed blog. The blog makes no attempt to reach people globally. The message is poor or unconvincing. Fewer than six other students commented on their proposal, and most comments were incomplete or did not relate to the solution.	The solution plan was published on a blog that should have better design. The blog does not reach people globally. The message is not realistic or convincing. Fewer than ten other students commented on their proposal, and some comments were incomplete or did not relate to the solution.	The solution plan was published on a blog or other form of technology that can reach people globally. The message is not completely convincing. Ten other students commented on their proposal with related responses.	The solution plan was published on an attractive, well-designed blog or other form of technology that can reach people globally. The message is compelling and convincing. More than ten other students commented on their proposal with logical, excellent responses.