Burning Issues Final Assignment

Because you have broad latitude in the type of media you will use to present your ideas, the rubric below describes important characteristics of your work which can improve the quality of your final product regardless of the assignment or media format you choose.

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| **Points** | **Characteristics of the final product which improve its quality** | **Aspects which reduce the quality of your product** |
| **Title-Introduction** | | |
| **5** | * **Your work must have a title which (depending on the media you choose) is:** * Interesting/creative * Informs the reader of the general topic/issue/problem * **Introduction** which:   + Clearly/insightfully frames the nature of the problem   + Provides meaningful context for the intended audience.   + Generally supports problem statement with evidence (that there is evidence a problem exists).   + Considers common misconceptions held by the general public on this issue.   + Relates the framing of the problem to the larger issue of human overpopulation. * Considering the intended audience it is   + - comprehensive     - clear/concise     - creative/interesting | * **Title:** * Misinforms the reader of the general topic/issue/problem * Attempts to make title creative or interesting but is not suitable for the type of media chosen or the type of writing/product created. * **Introduction** explores the main thesis of work:   The nature of the problem (problem statement) is   * + - absent     - unclear     - fails to incorporate relevant contextual factors.     - lacks or poorly presents evidence that there is evidence of a problem.     - fails to consider common misconceptions held by the general public on this issue.     - fails to // inaccurately // poorly connects the problem to the larger issue of human overpopulation. * Is   + - not comprehensive     - unclear or lacks concision     - if applicable it would not be very interesting for the intended audience (the general public)   **Comments:** |
| **Educating the intended audience about the ecology related to the issue** | | |
| **20** | * **Discussion/use of forest ecology related to this issue is**   + appropriately creative   + insightful   + accurate   + clear   + comprehensive (see guiding questions posed at the end of [Part 2](http://petersj.people.cofc.edu/BIOL211HomePage.html#Problems_) of the Burning Issues problem).   + information, ideas, biological concepts are expressed in your own words.   + presented in a way that that would be appropriate for the intended audience – considers audience factors such as \_\_\_interest level \_\_\_commonly held misconceptions \_\_\_knowledge level \_\_\_purpose of work | * **Discussion/use of forest ecology related to this issue is**   + **Absent??** (**if I check this box your assignment will be returned ungraded – late grade penalties will apply)**   + Inaccuracies are present   + inappropriate attempts to be creative   + lacking in important ecological insight   + unclear (wordy, lacking in concision, poorly written, difficult to understand)   + Not comprehensive (many of the questions posed at the end of [Part 2](http://petersj.people.cofc.edu/BIOL211HomePage.html#Problems_) are not explored).   + Direct quotes are used inappropriately or ideas are not summarized or paraphrased clearly.   + Presented in a way that that would be inappropriate for the intended audience – fails to or poorly consider factors such as \_\_\_interest level \_\_\_commonly held misconceptions \_\_\_knowledge level \_\_\_purpose of work   **Comments:** |
| **Connecting forest biology/ecology to the issue of urban sprawl** | | |
| **10** | * The work connects the biology/ecology of the forest to urban sprawl and its effects on forest conservation.   + appropriately creative   + insightful   + accurate   + clear   + connected to larger human overpopulation issue * Addresses other key related issues (aesthetics, preservation, recreational, historical use etc…) the issue and why preserving (or not preserving) the forest (and if applicable the species you are interested in) is important to the local citizens. | * Lacking in or unclear connections between how urban sprawl could affect the ecological dynamics of the forest and its native species. * The article unclearly or incompletely addresses other important issues (aesthetics, recreation, preservation etc… * Fails to // poorly connects to larger human overpopulation issue   **Comments:** |
| **Problem Recommendations** | | |
| **5** | * Properly draw upon ecological & conservation biology knowledge & evidence to critique or discuss proposed recommendations * Weigh or discuss the feasibility potential outcomes of problem recommendations * Argument is logical and exhibits the characteristics of critical assessment of ideas (as laid out in [Mini-Guide to Critical Thinking](http://petersj.people.cofc.edu/CourseInformation/MiniCriticalThinking.pdf)). | * **Specific recommendations are made but** the recommendations do not follow logically from the ideas presented earlier in the statement**: For example:**   + There are inconsistencies between the **scientific/biological** concepts/evidence presented in the statement and the recommendations made.   + There are inconsistencies between the use of legal/historical/ethical information/ideas presented in the statement and the recommendations made (i.e. the recommendations do not follow logically from the ideas presented earlier).   **Comments:** |
| **General Presentation & Research** | | |
| **5** | * Overall the work is well-organized with a logical progression of ideas/arguments. * Research is comprehensive * There is evidence that research was used to generate the arguments presented in the work. * Sufficient quality of research sources to address the issue. * Bibliography of research resources presented – see assignment guidelines. * Accurate spelling and grammar | * Unnecessary sentences, phrases, words which do not add meaning work. * Work is disorganized; ideas are not logically connected to one another. * Research into the issue is “thin” – not comprehensive. * Quality or validity of sources is questionable (ie. no way to establish the validity of the source, using Wikipedia etc…) * No bibliography of research resources or did not properly and consistently follow a citation format. * Spelling or grammar errors present   **Comments:** |

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Bonus** - Additional creative aspects of the letter that made it more interesting or easier to understand or insightful.