

Comments regarding researching your topic and referencing your sources:

How to organize your paper:

Introduction: gives the reader an overview of the important of your topic

Discussion:

you report the information that you have uncovered during your research and cite the sources of your information when it is presented

Conclusions:

summarizes your synthesis of the research you conducted and concludes with your opinion on this topic (this will be the last paragraph of the conclusions section)

References: on separate page (see paper instructions for reference requirements)

How to reference or cite your data or sources

All facts or statements made as facts must be substantiated by appropriate reference. Where did you get the data / information? It allows someone reviewing your work to 'check the facts'. This is one reason that web pages are often not good sources of information. It is hard to verify the original source of the information and there is no guarantee that the web page will be available indefinitely whereas books and scientific magazine articles will be preserved.

At least 7 references are required. Only 1 book and 1 web page may be used. The rest must be peer reviewer journal articles. Your text book may be used as a resource, but do not depend heavily on it or you will be penalized. It does not count toward the 7 references but if you use it then it must be included in the references.

Referencing Style

There are many styles of referencing. If you have one that you prefer, you may use it; however, but be sure you include all the necessary information and make sure that you use the style consistently for all references. Reference lists should include only the items cited in the text. The references are arranged alphabetically by the last names of authors. Multiple entries for a single author are arranged chronologically.

Here is an example of a journal article:

Author, F., Hartle, R. E., and J. M. Grebowsky, Title of the paper. Title of the journal, volume, pages, date.

Example of a book: (This one has three editors)

Macdonald, G. A., A. T. Abbot, and F. L. Peterson (Eds.), *Volcanoes in the Sea: The Geology of Hawaii*, 2nd ed., 517pp., Univ. of Hawaii Press, Honolulu, 1983.

Note that the titles of books and journals are placed in italics.

How to find reputable sources of information

BEWARE of WEB PAGES

They may contain false information

They are not peer reviewed

There is no guarantee they will be there 6 months from now

to reference a web page simply give the url:

<http://www.geography.ohio-state.edu> (Department of Geography, The Ohio State University) or
<http://www.prb.org/> (Population Reference Bureau)

To find your materials electronically you can use the OSU library search capabilities:

<http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu/>

Link to the Ohio Link Electronic Journal Center

Also - The infotrac site provided by your textbook publisher

<http://www.infotrac-college.com/wadsworth/>

Here are two key journals that I suggest you search:

Science magazine <http://www.sciencemag.org/>

Nature magazine <http://www.nature.com/>

Here are some web pages that are fairly dependable:

U.S. Global Change Program (balanced and supported by most federal science agencies)

<http://www.usgcrp.gov/>

this site takes you in many directions - lots of great links to explore

NASA's Earth Observatory (excellent for review of Earth system components)

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Library/>

For example - under Life on Earth - there is a nice discussion about phytoplankton (we will mention them briefly in class this week). They are the basis of the food chain for aquatic systems.

Population Reference Bureau: balanced view: a wealth of information about population issues both nationally and globally <http://www.prb.org/>

World Resources Institute (leans toward the environmental side but their information is high quality)

<http://www.wri.org/wri/>

Here are some others - their search engines are not as well developed or they have no search engine but they contain information that might be useful. These sites are more liberal so be cautious.

Union of Concerned Scientists <http://www.ucsusa.org/>

Pew Center on Global Climate Change <http://www.pewclimate.org>