

ENVR S-145 Global Climate Change

Moomaw/Weiskel

Spring 2010

## **The Prospectus Due on or before March 31, 2010**

A prospectus is a “proposal” to us regarding your research paper interest in Global Climate Change. Writing such a proposal allows us to provide specific feedback to you concerning your research topic.

Based on previous years, it is wise to begin with an understanding what

**a prospectus is NOT:**

**A mini-research paper.**

To ascertain that you are on track with the prospectus, it is suggested that you begin by:

1. **Identifying a Climate Change topic of interest.** There are many options available! Some examples include doing a case study of a region preparing to address climate change and/or prepare through reducing anthropogenic impacts. **Or** maybe you would like to identify a global region and using climate scientist’s predicted impacts from climate change, create your version of a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP). **Or**, you may also consider investigating energy alternatives available for a particular source to reduce a Carbon footprint, etc. The possibilities are endless!
2. **Ask yourself what you want to know about this topic, and formulate a very specific research question.** Note that this question will **not** be a yes/no question, nor will it be a one word answer question. Your question should be an open-ended question, allowing you to expand throughout your question in your research investigation. An open-ended question will warrant an outline to break down the components for study.
3. **Create an outline using your open-ended question.** Each sub-category will be a segment of your research paper, and all segments will be needed to answer your open-ended research question.
4. Identifying Global Climate Change topic and forming an open-ended research question with the subcomponents needed to answer this question are the components that will comprise your prospectus. Again, **this is a proposal (3-5 pages)**, for your research paper in this course, so **you will be telling us what you are planning to investigate, and what sources you are planning to use to fulfill your research.**
5. The final component of the prospectus assignment is an annotated bibliography. APA is recommended, but MLA is acceptable. Whichever you choose, use this citation style consistently, and ascertain that you **ALWAYS CITE YOUR SOURCES TO AVOID PLAGAIRISM!** Be cognizant to **CITE WHILE YOU WRITE** if you are citing sources within your paper.