

Blogging for Climate and Community

Description

Many individuals have been slow to take personal action to combat the causes of climate change because it is difficult to see how it affects them personally. Part of what contributes to this disconnect is that we tend to think about the big picture issues of climate change: the melting of glaciers, global sea level rise etc. In this assignment you will be thinking about how climate change affects you personally. You will investigate an example of climate change occurring in a region you have a personal connection to and write a short essay about that issue for our course blog, which is accessible to the public. Essays will include two figures that are integrated into and support your writing. Essays will be workshopped anonymously, revised and then posted on our course website. Finally, you will read your classmate's essays and choose two to reflect on in a short response.

Goals

- Think about why we (you!) are studying climate change
- Research a personally-relevant climate change issue
- Write a concise essay for a lay audience about climate change
- Begin to work with maps and data
- Introduce yourself to your classmates by telling them something about how climate change is relevant in the area you are from
- Share with the public an example of how climate change affects the communities we call home
- Work on your writing and editing skills
- Get to know your classmates and begin to build community

Tasks

1. Pick a local climate change topic that is relevant to you personally
2. Email me your topic for approval
 - a. This is to make sure your topic is appropriate and also that it hasn't already been chosen by another student (do not neglect this step)
3. Research your topic
 - a. Explore a variety of resources here. Scientific journal articles, newspaper articles, the websites of environmental organizations, hobbyist websites etc.
4. Write about your topic (1 page, single spaced)
 - a. Include one figure locating your climate change topic geographically
 - b. Include a data-based figure that explains an aspect of your topic
5. Bring a copy of your article to class (without your name on it)
6. Anonymously exchange your essay with a classmate (facilitated by me)
7. Give feedback on your classmate's essay
8. Revise your essay, taking into account your classmate's suggestions
9. Share your essay on our course EdBlog
10. Read your classmate's essays and choose two to comment on (1-2 paragraphs each)
 - a. One response on an essay that resonated with you

- b. One response on an essay that presents a topic you weren't aware of or would like to know more about

Evaluation

- Appropriate use of jargon for the audience
- Integration of map and data into writing
- Ability to explain figures
- Ability to explain topic
- Writing style
 - Grammar, word choice, sentence fluidity etc.
- Peer writing critique
- Incorporation of peer writing suggestion
- Thoughtfulness of responses