

Brock University
Environmental Sustainability Research Centre (ESRC)

ENSU 2P02: Environmental Sustainability in Practice
Term Paper Instructions

Overview

In this course, you are required to complete a term paper critically examining an example of environmental sustainability in practice. In other words, you will be **presenting a case study** of a project or program that an organization/ government/research group, or a collaboration of institutions/groups, etc. has implemented to address a sustainability issue. You will present your findings in the form of a 5-7 page research report which will outline, examine, and critically analyze key components of the case study. You will include the following content in your report:

- Introduction
- General background/context about the sustainability issue
 - What issue is the organization/group addressing?
 - Why is it an important issue to address?
 - What environmental and social challenges are present? *Note:* sustainability addresses both environmental (degradation, loss of biodiversity, depletion of resources, etc.) and social challenges (food and water security, health, economic and social development, climate change, etc.)
 - What is the local (or regional) context (e.g. where is it being implemented? At what scale? In what type of ecosystem)?
- Activities done to address the issue
 - What has been implemented to address the issue? Examples: could include sustainable practices, development of new technologies, conservation/restoration efforts, educational campaigns, monitoring, policy development and/or implementation, development of new partnerships/networks, etc.
 - Is this an ongoing project or has the project been completed?
- Results of the activities
 - What tangible results have been seen from the implementation of the sustainability practices? Examples: could include increase in native species/biodiversity, income generation/livelihood benefits, up-scaling from pilot project to local implementation, changes in policy, decreased disaster risk (e.g. reduced flooding), collaboration of different people groups, development of new partnerships, changes in behaviour, etc.
 - Evaluate the success of the activities, given the results. In your discussion, you may consider the markers of success used by various stakeholders (i.e. how would they know if it was successful), long-term vs short term success. If it wasn't successful, why not? What was lacking?
- Key lessons learned
 - In implementing the activities and seeing the results, what lessons can we learn from the case study? Examples of what you could include in your discussion: What could have improved the results? What factors made the case a success? What factors (or lack thereof)

hindered the success of the case? In order for success to be long-term, what needs to be put into place, what needs to continue? What kind of partnerships need to exist?

- Conclusion
- References
- Appendix (optional)

To help with the organization of your report, it is recommended that you use the above headings throughout your report.

Students will complete their term paper based on one of the topics in the list provided to you (see below). Students may choose their own topic provided it is relevant to the course content and it is approved by your instructor. **If you choose a topic other than the ones provided and it has not been approved, you will receive a grade of zero on your paper.**

You should draw upon a range of sources (e.g., journal articles, books, reports, newspapers, interviews, etc.) and include your own critical analysis based on what you have learned from the course and your own research.

Term Paper Specifications

Your term paper should adhere to the following specifications. **Failure to follow these instructions, as well as those above, will result in mark deductions.** Please read carefully!

1. Your term paper should be double-spaced with one inch margins and 12-point font (Times New Roman or Arial are acceptable font styles).
2. Please include a title page with the following information: title of your paper, date, course, name of student, and student number.
3. Number every page of the paper except your title page.
4. Your paper should be approximately **5-7 pages** in length (excluding your title page, figures/images/diagrams, and references).
5. All figures and tables should be properly formatted and labelled, if applicable. Figure captions should appear below a figure while table captions should appear above the table. All sources of figures and tables must be cited appropriately both in-text and in your references page.
6. Your paper should include references from at least **four (4) peer-reviewed sources as well as two (2) grey literature sources**. Grey literature may include government documents, reports, Statistics Canada, government websites, conference papers, etc. **In academic assignments, Wikipedia, blogs, etc. are NOT considered acceptable sources.**
7. **All references in the paper must be cited appropriately and consistently.** Please adhere to the following referencing style: APA. Please avoid the use of footnotes wherever possible. Referencing guides for the above style are available through the Brock University Library website: <http://researchguides.library.brocku.ca/styleguides>
8. **If citing course content, please use the following format:** Author Surname, First Initial. (Publication Year). *Name or title of lecture* [File Format]. Retrieved from Brock University ENSU 2P02 Sakai, <https://lms.brocku.ca/>. *Note: if using the content in Lessons, use "Lesson Notes" as the file format.

9. Before submission, please read Brock's Academic Integrity Policy available here: <https://brocku.ca/academicintegrity/>. **Your paper will be submitted through Turnitin.com via Sakai. Abuse of Brock's Academic Integrity Policy will NOT be tolerated.**

Your term paper is worth **30% of your final grade**, and is **due on Friday, August 23, 2019 by 11:55 p.m.** Please submit the assignment using the *Assignments* tool in Sakai, and ensure that it is submitted successfully in a readable format (Word or PDF). The course late policy and late penalty will apply to all term papers submitted after the due date and time.

Possible Topics for Term Paper

Your topic must relate to one of the categories below (Education, Agriculture, etc.). Examples of possible topic areas are given. You may choose one of these or another relevant topic under these categories.

****NOTE:** *You will be selecting a specific region or locality for your term paper. Since your report is a case study, you want to avoid a general exploration of your topic. Also avoid basing your case study on a company's Corporate Social Responsibility Report – this is not a project or program to address a specific issue.*

- Sustainability Education
 - Use of education to address a chosen environmental sustainability issue
- Sustainable Planning and Management
 - Smart growth
 - Green infrastructure
 - Environmental legislation to address environmental sustainability issue
 - Environmental management systems
- Sustainable Agriculture
 - Organic farming and intercropping
 - Integrated pest management
 - Agroecology
 - GMOs
 - Role of women in agriculture
- Nature-based Solutions
 - Ecological restoration
 - Ecosystem-based adaptation
 - Ecological engineering
 - Forest landscape restoration
 - Ecological disaster risk reduction
- Environmental Communications
 - Environmental messaging to address a chosen environmental sustainability issue
 - Communicating climate change (and/or other environmental issues).

See grading rubric below.

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Term Paper Grading Guidelines

Total /65

Component	Missing/Not Acceptable	Poor	Requires Work	Satisfactory (average)	Well done	Excellent
Introduction/Conclusion (5 marks) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear introduction, including purpose and structure of paper. • Clear conclusion, highlighting the main points made in the paper; provides final thoughts about the issues and concepts discussed. 	0	1	2	3	4	5
Content (20 marks) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant topic chosen. • Adequately describes what an organization/group/ government, etc. is doing to address an environmental issue, including activities being done; results of activities; and key lessons learned. • Discussion includes context for issue and why it is important to address the issue. • Focus is on what is being done to address the issue and is not a general exploration of a topic. • Clear use of examples to enhance impact of paper. 	0	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	6, 7, 8, 9, 10	11, 12, 13, 14	15, 16, 17	18, 19, 20
Analytical Depth and Quality of Academic Research (20 marks) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critically evaluates the success of the implemented sustainability activities in achieving desired goals; critically considers lessons learned from case study. • Uses key concepts from course material to build discussion and analysis. • Clear evidence of academic research. Rationale, ideas, and viewpoints supported by relevant sources. • At least 4 peer-reviewed sources + 2 grey literature sources used. 	0	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	6, 7, 8, 9, 10	11, 12, 13, 14	15, 16, 17	18, 19, 20

Academic Integrity (10 marks) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All non-original content is cited. • Content from other sources properly paraphrased or formatted if direct quote. • Original work is submitted. • (your Turnitin report will be looked at; you will either receive 0, 5 or 10, based on the report's findings; severe cases will be reported to the Chair) 	0		5			10
Communication of Ideas (5 marks) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear structure and organization of paper; flows logically. • Clear writing style; thoughts are expressed coherently. • Use of third person. 	0	1	2	3	4	5
Presentation and Mechanics (5 marks) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formatting follows APA style • Title page: title, name, student number, course, date • Compliance with font and page-margin requirements • Referencing and in-text citations follow APA format • Spelling, grammar • Proper submission of paper via Sakai 	0	1	2	3	4	5

Comments: