

ENV 4001: ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering

University of South Florida

Global Citizens Assignment

Stage 4

Prof J A Cunningham

Fall 2021

The fourth part of the group project is an *outline* of your paper, indicating what arguments you will use to support your paper's thesis. Here are the parameters:

- It is due on Monday, October 18, at the beginning of class.
- The outline will count for 10 points of the project grade (out of 120 total points).
- Each group should submit one hard copy. Please make sure all group members' names are indicated clearly. There is no need for a cover sheet.

Historically, students have really struggled with preparing good outlines. Several years ago, I prepared a document called "ENV 4001 guide to outlining." I thought that would help the students prepare strong outlines. It helped a little, but not a lot – most groups have still really struggled with this assignment. Therefore, in Fall 2021, I am going to try something new, in the hopes that this will help you.

When you submit your outline, at the top, before you even start the main part of your outline, you must write three short, declarative statements that represent your three main lines of argument for your paper.

For instance, if I am writing a paper with the main thesis "dogs make better pets than cats," my three short, declarative statements could be:

1. Dogs are easier to train than cats.
2. Dogs can perform useful functions better than cats.
3. Dogs have better personalities.

Notice that these are short but complete sentences that convey specific ideas which support my main thesis. I did **not** write something like "Analysis of how dogs learn human language." That is not a short, declarative statement.

If your thesis is that the United States should remain in the Paris Agreement, write three short, declarative statements that support that thesis. If your thesis is that the United States should cease participation in the Paris Agreement, write three short, declarative statements that support that thesis. If your thesis is that the Affordable Clean Energy Rule is a better policy than the Clean Power Plan, write three short, declarative statements that support that thesis.

After you write your three sentences, begin your actual outline! See the following page....

For this outline, there are three main things for which I am looking.

- First, I want to see that your paper has a logical *organizational structure*.
- Second, I want to see that you have an idea of what *lines of argument* you will use to support your paper's main thesis. These are the three sentences that you wrote above!
- Third, I want to see that you have *specific details* to support your lines of argument.

Your outline should be *detailed* enough that I can understand what your main arguments are, and I can evaluate if those arguments will help you achieve your paper's objective. If I can't tell from your outline how you intend to prove your case, then your outline probably does not have enough detail, and your grade will reflect that. Your outline should be clear about what pieces of evidence you will use to support your thesis.

I have prepared a supplemental document about outlining. It is based in part on a document that was prepared by my colleague Professor Stuart, but I have revised it to meet the needs of ENV 4001. Please see that document for instructions on how to prepare a good outline. In particular, this document discusses the level of details in an outline as being Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, or Level 4. The higher the level, the more detail is included – and hence the more effective your outline will be at guiding your paper. In general, you should expect that your grade on this part of the assignment will likely increase as your level of detail increases – as long as you do not sacrifice your overall arguments or organizational structure in order to work in details. Practice using “top-down outlining” rather than “bottom-up outlining” – it will result in a better final paper. (If you don't know what I mean by that, ask me.)

The three short, declarative statements that you wrote at the beginning of the assignment should be your headers for sections II.A., II.B., and II.C. of your outline.

If you have questions about the requirements...ask!