

Final Project

Project Topic Due Tuesday 11/24/15 (by email)

Total 100 points – FULL Project Due Thursday 12/10/15

Instructions to turn in:

- 1) Cover Page with Title in the top-center (Bolded), name, class and ID number, each on their own line in the center near the bottom of page
- 2) Formatting
 - a) Font: Times New Roman
 - b) Font Size: 12 pt
 - c) Line Spacing: 1.5 (NOT 2, that's too hard for me to read)
 - c) Margins: 1 inch margin all around
 - d) Page Numbers: lower right hand corner
 - d) Total number of pages including cover page and references: 7 minimum
- 3) Paper (w/o cover page): 5 page minimum – 8 page maximum (don't go crazy).
- 4) References: Any format is fine, include a minimum of 5 text references (from class or library), others can be internet webpage resources that you cite.

Final Project Topic Proposals

In order to make sure your topic is reasonable and do-able by the end of the semester you will need to submit a short paragraph via email that describes your proposed topic. Provide the Question that you are going to address and why you find the topic interesting (see three examples below).

Final Project Description and Instructions.

Your final project will be based on the country you've been focusing on for the entire semester. You have learned a lot about each of your countries and about weather and climate around the world and in the Pacific Region. It should be clear by now that weather and climate have played a huge role in determining the cultural development of communities and peoples all over the world.

The Pacific Islands have a unique environment, history and future that you can discuss in connection with the course material. You will need to suggest a topic and will be asked to formulate a question, as mentioned above, that you will be addressing/answering with your paper. For background and inspiration you have four full assignments that cover a wealth of information about your country including:

- Geography and Climate
- Population and Economy
- Detailed Climate Characteristics
- Severe Weather and Risks

For this final project you will choose one or more cultural (music, art, dance, poetry, literature, etc.), economic (food resources, trade), political, or environmental (climate change and risk) and relate it to the weather and/or climate of your chosen country. Examples:

a) You could report on the effects of a recently cyclone or typhoon on your country. Your question would be something like “How have recent typhoons affected the island of _____?”

b) You could also discuss historical changes in climate (for some islands like Rapa Nui) and how that played a role in your county. Your question would be something like “How did changes in climate impact the people of _____?”

c) Another example would be to look for music or songs that are related to natural phenomena and discuss the meaning of a few examples. Your question might look something like “How are natural phenomena like rain and wind represented in the ancient songs of _____?”

Content and Point Values for Each Section

Organize your paper into sections with headings. For a term paper the sections might be:

Introduction (~1-1.5 pages) – 20 points: info about your island and question

Main Topic (2.5-3 pages) – 50 points: answer your question and discuss cultural aspect

Summary (~1-1.5 page) – 20 points: summarize the discussion about your question.

References (1/2-1 page) – 5 points

Include 1 map and a minimum of 1 photo – 5 points

NOTE: The page estimations is for text only. If you include photos or maps in with the body of the text make sure that there are still 5 FULL pages of writing plus any maps or photos (making it longer than 5 pages) The photo and map can also be put at the end, on individual pages, before the References.

NOTE: You can cite webpages, just be sure to include the page name as well as the link.

Style

- Try to write in the third person whenever possible. For the most part you will be presenting facts.
- Avoid clichés. (“the bottom line”, “at the end of the day”, “all in all” etc.)
- Avoid slang and informal terms of expression. (“Well, ...”, “It was like, we went...”)
- Avoid rhetoric. (“How should I interpret these results?”, “I asked myself - What do people think about global warming?”)
- Do not use direct quotations in your text unless absolutely necessary. In general it is better to paraphrase or explain the ideas in your own words and simply refer to the original work.

Grammar and spelling

- Don’t rely on the spelling checker to find all your spelling errors. You must also read through you document to check that “their”, “there” and “they’re”, for example, are correctly used.
- Read and re-read your paper. Edit it more than once or twice. Avoid the repetitious use of the same word in a sentence or a paragraph. Edit away all redundancies. I do not want to read the same information over and over again, simply expressed in a slightly different way each time.

In Text References

- Cite articles by author(s) and year within your text. If there is a single author, the last name and year will suffice – e.g. (Hutchinson, 1995). If there are two authors, include both names and the year of the publication – e.g. (Hutchinson and Osborne, 1978). For more than two authors, use the first author with et al. – e.g. (Hutchinson et al., 1984).
- Include the list of references at the end of your paper. Do not include references you have read but not cited. List the references alphabetically by the first author’s last name, or by Web page title.