**Marine Policy Project – Part 3 Instructions**

**Part 3: Build an Argument (40 points)**

**IMPORTANT:** Remember, you’re final Project is a letter of appeal asking someone of influence to advocate change on a particular marine issue. Therefore, to successfully persuade someone the need for change, you must make strong claims about your issue and have data to support them. This exercise is meant for you to really get into the literature and find those scientific studies (DATA) that support your position on the issue.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**
Submit a 1-3 page document that contains:

1. **A list (bullet points) of ten (10) claims with at least one supporting fact** about your topic, using APA-style in-text citations. For example:

   **Claim:** One reason for the decline in population of the green turtle in the Gulf of Mexico is because of longline fishing gear.

   **Statistic/Data:** A 2013 study that compiled more than 1,800 records from over 230 sources of reported marine turtle bycatch in longline, net, and trawl fisheries worldwide found that longline fishing gear has the largest impact, especially in the Gulf of Mexico (Wallace et al., 2013).

   It is critical you select facts that are pertinent to your position so it is vital you state your claim. This will help you write a persuasive letter in Part 5.

   Components to include in your list are:
   a. Data, statistics, and/or results from a scientific study
   b. Facts stated in YOUR OWN WORDS
   c. Facts are numbered
   d. Each fact must have an APA-style, in-text citation (see example below).

2. **Bibliography:** at least five (5) preliminary research sources/references (full citations following APA style format -- see below how to format your bibliographies correctly). Two of these five must be a scholarly article from our online library.

Example list with proper in-text citations:

1. Harvest of natural oysters are 1% or less than historic values in the Chesapeake Bay (NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, 2018).
2. Fishing studies have shown the diminishing populations are a result of disease, overharvesting in the 19th and 20th centuries, and changes in water quality (Volstad et al., 2008).
3. Maryland built 10 reefs where fishing isn’t allowed and stocked them with more than 1 billion oysters over the past 20 years (Fears, 2015).
4.
5.
6.
Example of Bibliography:

References:


If you need help with APA-style formatting, do not hesitate to contact our librarian **Ms. Betty Rugh**! (betty.h.rugh@lonestar.edu)

**Grading for Part 3:**
The research facts list should be typed and contain all the specific detail outlined above. Proper citing of references and APA-style formatting is critical. *TurnItIn will be utilized so be careful not to plagiarize – aka, put EVERYTHING in your own words!*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rubric for MPP PART 3</th>
<th>10 points</th>
<th>5 points</th>
<th>0 points</th>
<th>Total Achievable Pts (40 pts)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Understanding and Argument</td>
<td>Argument strong; Highly detailed; Fact-based; Provided data as supporting evidence</td>
<td>A couple of facts stated; understanding is unclear; argument lacks sufficient data</td>
<td>Argument not clear; no data presented</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization and Clarity</td>
<td>Very well written; well thought-out; organized; Concise</td>
<td>Well-written; some-what organized; Difficult to follow at times</td>
<td>Poorly written; Not clear; Poorly organized; Difficult for reader to follow and understand</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>Five primary references; two peer-reviewed scientific articles used</td>
<td>Some reputable references used, but library was NOT used</td>
<td>No references given</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Format</td>
<td>Intext citations and works cited follow APA-style formatting</td>
<td>Formatting not entirely correct; either in-text citations or works cited contains errors</td>
<td>No APA-formatting present</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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