

**Environmental Biology**  
**Bio 120 - Honors**  
**Assignment Information Sheet**

**Group Project** – The group project consists of a written report, and an oral presentation given at the end of the semester. The goal of this project is to have you and your group become experts on a subject, and present your findings to the class.

The project will revolve around some environmental issue selected by your group. The topic should be a focused examination of an environmental problem facing Lake County or a nearby area. Your information can come from journal articles, magazine articles, web sites, personal interviews (1 required), video segments etc.

The written report should be 5 - 7 pages, typed, and should summarize your findings. This should be a synthesis of the information gathered by the group members; it should not be separate papers by each person. The paper needs to have references cited within the paper in addition to a references page. The oral presentation should last approximately 30 minutes and be accompanied by visual aids that can be seen by the entire class. You are welcome to use PowerPoint but it is not necessary. Each member is required to contribute to the presentation. This should be a well planned out, professional presentation.

In addition to the final project your group has 2 additional deadlines. The first item to be handed in is a paragraph long statement about your topic and 5 sources. The second item to be turned in is an outline of your paper and your presentation. Both of these assignments are worth points toward the final project grade.

Your grade will be based on my evaluation as well as a personal evaluation and evaluations from your group members. Groups will be selected the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of class. Your group should start working on this project by the 4<sup>th</sup> week of class, do not procrastinate on this project. Be careful in selecting your group members, these are people that will have a large effect on your grade and whom you will have to work closely with to do well.

**Survivor Clause: If at any time your group unanimously decides to vote you out of the group they can and you will have to do the project independently.**

**Peer Discussion and Project** – During the course of the semester we will have 5 peer led discussions and/or activities related to topics in the Taking Sides text. These will occur during the middle of the semester. Each student pair will have one class period for their project. Teams will lead the class on a discussion of the material and if they wish conduct an additional activity for that day. Teams should be prepared to guide the discussion during the class time with relatively little assistance from myself. Prior to the discussion each team will meet with me to discuss their planned introduction and primary discussion points. Teams can bring in outside materials if they wish. All students should read the chapters before coming to class and be prepared with 2 written, thought based, questions which they can add to the discussion. This

should not be a presentation but a discussion. The key to successful discussion is preparation on both sides.

To gauge participation each member of the class will turn in a summary expressing their view and supporting reasons for each topic. In addition to my grade of the discussion each team member will turn in a self-evaluation in respect to their topic.

**Journal Assignments** – Throughout the semester you will have several short at home or in class assignments. Each assignment will be completed in the same journal. You should bring your journal with you to each class meeting because these assignments will not be announced in advance. Please purchase a blue test booklet (available in the bookstore) for your journal. Many students also like to e-mail the journal assignments, which is fine.

**Lecture Tests** – There will be a total of 4 tests given throughout the semester, each worth 40 points. Quiz material will come from lectures, activities, and reading material (text and non-text). Tests will be take home consisting of short and long essay questions requiring you to apply what you have learned. You will have a minimum of 1 weekend to complete the test. These are independent assignments and consultation of classmates will be considered cheating.

**Lab Journal** – Lab participation will be evaluated from a field journal and lab notebook. The journal will be used to compile your fields notes, short essays, or creative assignments, and to collect data from the inside labs. The journal will be used to answer out of class questions (on just the inside labs) at the end of the semester. Please be creative with your field journals, pictures, drawings, etc. If you have an approach you would like to try for your journal please come see me.

**Service Project** – Students will be required to conduct a service learning project during the semester. This should consist of 2 action days (8 minimum contact hours total) and a written self evaluation on what was conducted, what you learned, and what impact your project made. Activities can include habitat restoration or education with Liberty Prairie Conservancy, the Lake County Forest Preserve District, the CLC Environmental Club or humanitarian efforts with the Lake County Health Department, Habitat for Humanity, or other volunteer agencies in which you are interested.

**Participation Points** – During lecture various activities will be used to distribute points for attendance and participation. The activities (worksheets, discussion, small projects) will be unannounced so it is important to come to class regularly.

**Extra Credit** – Throughout the semester I will post several questions to be answered for extra credit. The number of points per question will vary depending on difficulty. There will also be extra credit given for volunteer activities outside of the service project.