Human Population and Human Activities: Impacts on the Environment

Incorporates Common Core Reading and Writing Standards

Biology Standards:
SB4 Students will assess the dependence of all organisms on one another and the flow of energy and matter within their ecosystems.
   d. Assess and explain human activities that influence and modify the environment such as global warming, population growth, pesticide use, and water and power consumption.

Purpose of Assignment: Students will analyze the impacts of human population growth and how the environment is impacted by human activities through reading and writing.

This is a summative assignment and will be due on: __________________________

Writing Prompt: After researching informational texts on human population growth and human impacts on the environment, write a report or essay that explains and assesses how human activities have influenced and modified the environment. What conclusion or implications can you draw? Cite at least 6 sources, pointing out key elements from each source. A bibliography in APA format is required.

Task Engagement: What is your first response to the writing prompt? Write down things you know regarding the topic as well as any questions or concerns you have.

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Task Analysis: Additional Notes on Prompt, Process, Citations and Rubric

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# Scoring Rubric for Informational/Explanatory Template Task

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scoring Elements</th>
<th>TASK: Human Impact on the Environment</th>
<th>DATE:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>POINTS</strong></td>
<td>0-5</td>
<td>6-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Controlling Idea</strong></td>
<td>Attempts to establish a controlling idea, but lacks a clear purpose.</td>
<td>Establishes a controlling idea with a general purpose.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Focus</strong></td>
<td>Attempts to address prompt, but lacks focus or is off-task.</td>
<td>Addresses prompt appropriately, but with a weak or uneven focus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organization</strong></td>
<td>Attempts to organize ideas, but lacks control of structure.</td>
<td>Uses an appropriate organizational structure to address the specific requirements of the prompt with some lapses in coherence or awkward use of the organizational structure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Development</strong></td>
<td>Attempts to provide details in response to the prompt, including retelling, but lacks sufficient development or relevancy. Implication is missing, irrelevant, or illogical. Gap/unanswered question is missing or irrelevant.</td>
<td>Presents appropriate details to support the focus and controlling idea. Briefly notes a relevant implication or a relevant gap/unanswered question.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conventions</strong></td>
<td>Attempts to demonstrate standard English conventions, but lacks cohesion and control of grammar, usage, and mechanics. Sources are used without citation.</td>
<td>Demonstrates an uneven command of standard English conventions and cohesion. Uses language and tone with some inaccurate, inappropriate, or uneven features. Inconsistently cites sources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reading and Research</strong></td>
<td>Attempts to present information in response to the prompt, but lacking connections or relevance to the purpose of the prompt. Does not address credibility of the sources as prompted.</td>
<td>Presents information from reading materials relevant to the purpose of the prompt with minor lapses in accuracy or completeness. Begins to address the credibility of the sources when prompted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Content Understanding</strong></td>
<td>Attempts to include disciplinary content in explanations, but understanding of content is weak; content is irrelevant, inappropriate, or inaccurate.</td>
<td>Briefly notes disciplinary content relevant to the prompt; shows basic or uneven understanding of content; minor errors in explanation.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>COMMENTS:</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Essential Vocabulary: Complete the following graphic organizer using your text and other resources provided.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vocabulary Words/Phrases</th>
<th>Definition in your own words</th>
<th>Examples</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human population growth</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Global warming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ozone depletion</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy consumption</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Water pollution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pesticide use</td>
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<tr>
<td>Invasive species</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extinctions</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Active Reading and Note Taking:** Fill in this graphic organizer with relevant information as you read the articles. Make sure you are identifying the central ideas that will provide evidence and support for the writing prompt.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Impacts on the Environment</th>
<th>Evidence of Impact</th>
<th>Article Referenced/ Quote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human population</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global warming</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Transition from Reading to Writing:** Use the information you obtained on your previous graphic organizers to start compiling the information relevant to answer the initial writing prompt. The idea is to use the graphic organizer below to start outlining key points to support your view. This is for your general ideas and can be bullets or sentence fragments. The initial writing prompt is provided below.

*After researching informational texts on human population growth and human impacts on the environment, write a report or essay that explains and assesses how human activities have influenced and modified the environment. What conclusion or implications can you draw? Cite at least 6 sources, pointing out key elements from each source. A bibliography in APA format is required.*

**Topic/Thesis Statement:**

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

**Human population growth statement:**

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Evidence:

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

How does the evidence support your statement:

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Citation(s):

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

**Global warming statement:**

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Evidence:

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

How does the evidence support your statement:

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Citation(s):

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________
Pesticide use statement:

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Evidence:

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

How does the evidence support your statement:

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Citation(s):

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Water and power consumption statement:

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Evidence:

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

How does the evidence support your statement:

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Citation(s):

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Human activity of your choice:

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Evidence:

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

How does the evidence support your statement:

__________________________________________________________________________________________________
Human activity of your choice:

___________________________________________

Evidence:

___________________________________________

How does the evidence support your statement:

___________________________________________

Citation(s):

___________________________________________

Which issue do you feel is the most critical or important?

___________________________________________

Evidence:

___________________________________________

How does the evidence support your statement:

___________________________________________

Citation(s):

___________________________________________

Which information which you read do you feel skeptical about?

___________________________________________

Evidence:

___________________________________________
The WRITING Process

*** You will need to use your own notebook paper to complete the following process. Do not throw away any of the work. You will submit everything listed below in sequential order. *** Use the information you wrote in the section above and elaborate on the information for the writing process below.

Step 1: Create a short constructed response

Write an opening paragraph that includes a controlling idea and sequences the key points you plan to make in your composition.

Step 2: Create an outline

Create an outline based on your notes and reading in which you state your claim, sequence your points, and note your supporting evidence.

Step 3: Create a long constructed response

Write an initial draft complete with opening, development, and closing; insert and cite textual evidence.

Step 4: Revisions (use a different color writing utensil to modify your long constructed response)

Refine composition’s analysis, logic, and organization of ideas/points. Use textual evidence carefully, with accurate citations. Decide what to include and what not to include.

Step 5: Editing (use yet another color to show editing on your long constructed response)

Revise draft to have sound spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar. Adjust formatting as needed to provide clear, appealing text.

Reference page: Include your citations in APA format at the end of your final draft.