

Environmental Science and Policy Capstone

ENV 498 Seminar in Environmental Problem Solving

Spring 2013

Writing Rubric

Goals for capstone projects

The course will involve the design, research, analysis, presentation, and publication of Chapman University's first campus environmental audit. The course will be organized as a single collaborative group project although each student will have individual responsibilities towards the development of the final audit.

This rubric is designed to assess draft writing assignments as well as the quality of the final report. In the process, it assesses the following course and program goals.

Course objectives

- define concepts and operational measures for the key components of an environmental audit.
- develop survey questions and distinguish between normative, ordinal and quantitative measures.
- identify relevant stakeholders in on-campus environmental policy decisions and develop strategies for communication and implementation of decisions.
- calculate and prioritize the absolute and relative costs/cost-savings of different strategic decisions.
- communicate results and conclusions to a broad audience in both oral and poster format.
- differentiate between and balance short-, medium-, and long-term policy goals, and identify gaps where continued research is needed.

Program learning outcomes

- Students will be able to apply critical thinking and analytical skills to design and interpret scientific experiments, results and data.
- Students will be able to analyze and critically evaluate the political, economic and ethical aspect of environmental policies.
- Students will be able to identify interfaces between science and policy to assess complex environmental challenges from an interdisciplinary perspective.
- Students will be able to communicate effectively through written, visual and oral presentations.

Student names: _____

Subject of Chapter: _____

Evaluator name: _____

Rate the quality of each section using a scale from 1 to 10 (10 is highest):

Introduction (10)

History of the issue (10)

Current status (10)

Concluding assessment (10)

Recommendations (10)

Contacts (10)

References (10)