

Carbon Footprint Investigation

This investigation is optional; if you turn it in, it will replace your worst grade for the term. Send me an e-mail saying that you complied with all the items in the proper research checklist (#8) and send your final investigation as a PDF. No submissions will be accepted after the deadline. Items 1-4 and 6-7 will not take very much time; items 5 and 6 will take most of the time.

If you choose to do this investigation, you must do it entirely by yourself. The only person you can talk to about this investigation is me and I am more than willing to do so. Your grade will be based on:

- How clearly you communicate your results
- How realistic your lifestyle changes appear to be
- The size of your percent reduction (6b)
- Your reflection on the lifestyle change you made for at least three weeks

1. What does the term “carbon footprint” mean?
2. In what units is carbon footprint measured?
3. If you rank countries from high to low by carbon footprint per capita, where does the US rank?
4. Give the most recently available value for carbon footprint per capita per year for the US.
5. Assume that your carbon footprint is the US average (your value for #4). List as many lifestyle changes that you could realistically make in order to lower your carbon footprint. For each lifestyle change, what is the annual reduction in carbon footprint?
6. Assuming you make all the lifestyle changes in your list
 - a. What is your new annual carbon footprint?
 - b. What percent reduction does that represent?
7. Of the lifestyle changes in your list (remember, they are all realistic) pick at least one and sustain that lifestyle change for three weeks. Write a paragraph on how easy or difficult it was to sustain the change.
8. Proper research checklist – ***Not complying with any of the items on this checklist is plagiarism.***
 - Did I do this project completely by myself as instructed (with the exception of Mr. Ahbel)? If not, attribute your help.
 - Did I put quotes around any text that I took directly from another source?
 - Did I quote large sections of text? If so there was probably very little learning going on, so go back, quote critical passages and paraphrase the rest.
 - Did I put a complete MLA citation for each source? Note: URLs must be the ones that go to the page that actually has the information you used. URLs to the home page of an organization is usually not the URL you want.
 - One of the definitions of the word attribute in Merriam-Webster is “an object closely associated with or belonging to a specific person, thing, or office”. (1) Did I attribute every piece of information I used by connecting the citation to information in the research? (That is what I just did with the use of (1) above and below.

Bibliography

- (1) "Attribute." Merriam-Webster. Merriam-Webster. Web. 06 Mar. 2012. <<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/attribute>>.