

Enviro-Ecology News For The New Millennium

Biology – Mr. Schmickrath

The group will produce an environmental-ecological newsletter for the new millennium. This is how we'll do it!

After consultation an editor will be selected. The editor's job is to monitor the progress of the group, assign appropriate news articles, and to come up with 2 original contributions to the newsletter. Also, the editor approves your choice of articles, to assure that a common "theme" to the newsletter is maintained. The editor is in charge of your work and newsletter. They are the boss.

A Table of Contents will be provided on the front page. A title that is appropriate will be chosen.

Each person is responsible for three contributions to the newsletter. However, your articles WILL NOT all appear together. They will be spread throughout the newsletter. The editor is in charge of which article will appear where.

Pictures or illustrations may be used, as long as they are NOT the major source of contribution, and are appropriate to the article and subject. The number of pictures should be limited.

Cartoons may be used as long as they are the work of the group member. No cartoons may be used that are someone else's work.

The lay-out of the newsletter is up to the group, but again, the editor has the final say. The editor should ask the group what they think is best.

Each article needs to have a headline.

Possible Subjects for Articles:

- Waste Management
- Pollution
- Energy Issues
- Wildlife Conservation / Extinctions
- Population Problems and Issues
- Habitat Destruction
- Biotechnology
- Atmospheric / Climatic Issues
- Water and Food Issues

See also separate sheet for ideas!

EACH GROUP NEEDS TO:

- Come up with an innovative and catchy title for your newspaper
- Produce a headline
- Produce a kicker, lead body and close
- Include a byline
- Write to the Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How criteria
- Use journalistic style
- Have perfect spelling
- Check grammar and clean up
- Meet your deadline
- Fill out a format observation/assessment of each group member
- Enter your work into a newsletter software program
- Have a consistent theme to the newspaper
- Be consistent in using different fonts and colors in the paper

A software package such as Microsoft Publisher or similar must be used to put the newsletter into the proper format. If no one in the group has access to that kind of software, then you may use the two computers in my room. You must have a 3 ½ inch floppy disk to save your work. I suggest you have 2 disks and save it twice. Only one computer has a printer, so you may have to wait your turn to print it from the other computer. The font size for text may not be larger than 12 points for the body of an article. Font size for titles will be appropriate to level of importance of an article. The use of color is encouraged where appropriate.

Periodically, we will have class time to work on this project. I will monitor your use of this time and award points as appropriate. One person from each group may ask to go to the library to do research. This person will be assigned by the editor. The editor will stay in the room and coordinate the efforts of the other members of the team.

The editor will be in charge of establishing deadlines for work, and monitoring the progress of the individuals in the group to assure that they are keeping up with their responsibilities. The editor will also make sure that articles are properly entered into a computer and saved.

Use journalistic style. That means your writing needs to:

1. be simple
2. be concise
3. avoid redundancies
4. avoid convoluted sentences
5. avoid “jargon” and slang
6. use appropriate vocabulary

Group Steps:

1. Job division and verification of responsibility
2. Concept and angle development (point of view)
3. Set reasonable deadlines and make members responsible to stick to them
4. Research and validation
5. Writing
6. Editing
7. Computer entry and layout
8. Check spelling and grammar
9. Final Check
10. Save (twice!! On different disks!)

The group selects the editor. This **MUST** be a unanimous decision. If the group is unable to agree, the teacher will select the editor.

EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

Editors will lead the group in discussing what the newsletter will be about. The editor should listen to and accept ideas from the members, but the final decision IS the editor's. The editor will assign articles to the members and establish reasonable deadlines. The editor should monitor members' articles to ensure that they are consistent with the group vision. They will create the masthead and the general layout of the newsletter, and they will import all articles and produce the final project. They can also decide which articles to accept, and which ones to reject until revisions are made.

Possible Subjects for Enviro Newsletter in Biology

1. (A) Bio-Technology
 - a. Plants – Food that does not spoil
 - b. Plants – built-in pesticide
 - c. Insulin production with E Coli Bacteria
2. (B) Endangered Plants and Animals – Local, Country, Continent, World
3. (C) Depletion of the Rain Forests – Implications
4. (D) Fighting disease by genetic manipulation
5. (E) Top Ten Lists – Smallest, Largest, Deadliest, Longest Living, etc.
6. (F) Spotlight on People – Involved in Biology, Genetics, DNA, etc.
7. (A) Fantastic Facts
8. (G) Bio-Ethics and Editorials – These are usually the editors area
 - a. Should Insurance companies be able to demand genetic info?

- b. Cloning of Humans
 - c. How much, if any genetic manipulation in the womb?
 - d. Other items of current interest
9. (B)Amazing Plants and Amazing Animals
- 10. (C)Comic Strip on Bio-Ecology or other subjects of current interest
 - 11. (D)Development vs Environment – Where is the balance?
 - 12. (E)Use and Abuse of Fertilizers, Pesticides, Hormones, Antibiotics
 - 13. (F)Energy Sources, Existing vs Possible – Clean vs Polluting
 - 14. (A)Clean Cars – Electric vs Fuel Cells vs Hybrids, pros and cons of each
 - 15. (B)Reviews of Web Sites, Books, Software, etc.
 - 16. (C)Hole in Ozone – Global Warming
 - 17. (D)Pollution of Oceans, Rivers, Lakes, Streams, etc.
 - 18. (E)Garbage Dumps/Landfills, Toxic Waste Disposal, Recycling
 - 19. (F)Clear Cutting in National Forests
 - 20. (A)Recycling trash in local communities
 - 21. (B)Bio-remediation
 - 22. (C)Mt. Saint Helens – No intervention by man, let nature take it's course
 - 23. (D)Interesting organisms in the 5 kingdoms
 - 24. (E)Medicinal properties of plants – implications for destruction of the rain forest
 - 25. (F)Over-prescription and use of antibiotics – Development of resistant strains of bacteria
 - 26. (A)Creatures of the deep
 - 27. (B)Hot vents and sulfur vents – organisms
 - 28. (C)Coral Reef Formation
 - 29. (D)Animals in zoos and circuses
 - 30. (E)Amino Acids from Asteroids

The capital letter in parentheses is the category of the item. You must have EVERY category represented by at least one item. If you have an idea not represented above, see me for which category it would go under.

GRADING: Grading will be based on the quality of the final product from each group, assessments by the others of the group, teacher observations, and whether deadlines have been met.