

Lock Haven University
HONR 115 – Earth Resources & Environment

Suggested topics for term papers:

You will have to write a term paper and will have to present it to the class during the last three weeks of classes. The term paper (10%) and the oral presentation (10%) will account for 20% (10% + 10%) of the total grade. The grade for oral presentation will be assigned based on the average of grades given by your peers during the presentation (see the **Evaluation Rubric for Presentation of Term Paper** posted on my website)

The directions and format of the term paper are posted on my website:
<http://www.lhup.edu/~mkhalequ>.

You need to choose a topic that is relevant to the content of this course and get the topic pre-approved by me. Sooner you select a topic better you will do. If you can get a draft before the Thanksgiving break, I will return the draft with my suggestions for improvements for the final report. The term paper doesn't have to be based on literature search; you can also design an original research project and present the results in the form of a report. However, you need to submit a short (few paragraphs) proposal outlining your proposed research, hypothesis you plan to test, approach you are going to take to achieve your goal/objectives, and envisioned results. You can prepare audio-visual aids (e.g. transparencies, Power Point presentation, slide show, video, handout, etc.) for your presentation. Your presentation will be 10-minute long followed by a 5-minute question and answer session. The length of the paper should be between 5 and 10 pages (I will not pay too much attention to the length of the paper as much as I will judge it by the content). The following is a suggested (bear in mind that I encourage you to find a topic that you like) list of topics for term paper:

- (1). Mineral resources of Clinton County, PA.
- (2). Environmental issues in Clinton County, PA.
- (3). Environmental impact assessment of proposed hog farms in Nippenose Valley, PA.
- (4). Acid mine drainage (AMD) problems in Beech Creek watershed.
- (5). Passive treatment methods for AMD problems.
- (6). Impacts of land-use changes on water quality in PA.
- (7). Surface water quality in Bald Eagle (or any other creeks) Creek, PA.
- (8). Limestone quarries and their impacts on the environment in Clinton & Centre Counties.
- (9). Best Management Practices (BMPs) to solve soil erosion in Clinton (or any other) County.

Suggested topics for term papers (continued):

- (10). History of coal mining and impacts on the environment in PA.
- (11). History of iron industry in central PA.
- (12). Assessment of dike levee along the West Branch Susquehanna River in Lock Haven.
- (13). Global warming caused by greenhouse effect and its consequences on the environment.
- (14). Causes and solutions to increased flooding problems in the Mississippi River Valley.
- (15). Energy and mineral resources distribution in the world their relationships to geopolitics.
- (16). Sources of groundwater pollution and treatment methods.
- (17). Geologic assessment of the proposed radioactive disposal site in Yucca Mountain, NV.
- (18). Non-fuel mineral resources in PA.
- (19). Development of domestic fossil fuel or alternative energy sources? What should we do?
- (20). Sustainable economic development in the future: possibility or myth?