
ENVR E-106
Envisioning a Sustainable Future:
Managing and Protecting the Environment
Spring Semester 2017

Research Intent Assignment

(Statement Of Research Intent – SORI)

This one-page paper is intended simply as a statement of your intent to undertake research on a topic of your choice. Let us know your chosen topic. That is, select an issue, an environmental initiative or, perhaps, a particular person that you would like to research at further length, relating directly to the theme of *envisioning a sustainable future*. Then, please write a short one-page description of what you intend to investigate.

For example, you may have learned about the groups that are taking the initiative to protect topsoil and foster organic practices to promote carbon sequestration through changing our farming techniques. Or, you may feel that an inspirational field biologist has studied the requirements for protecting the habitat needed to preserve the future viability of a particular endangered species. Or, you may have heard climate scientists warning about global sea-level changes that will threaten the sustainability of coastal cities around the world, and you would like to investigate strategies for managing and protecting the environment in the face of this global trend.

In any case, you should be able to choose **an initiative, an individual or an issue** that can become the initial organizing focus of your term paper. This is the first formal written exercise in the course – a “Statement of Research Intent” (SORI) -- and it is designed to let us know what you will be working on over the course of the term. Please decide upon a title and place it at the top of the page. Then elaborate your thoughts in two or three paragraphs, not to exceed a total of 250 words in length.

Eventually, your research topic must be supported by credible primary sources and/or statistical data. At this stage it is sufficient simply to investigate whether there are pertinent primary sources on your topic of interest. Once you have determined that these primary sources are available, you will be able to present a summary of these resources in the **“Prospectus,”** the next written class assignment (due on **23 March**).

Please submit your **Statement of Research Intent (SORI)**, on time, to the appropriate online **“Drop Box”** designated for it in the “Assignments” section of the CANVAS webpage for the course by the end of: **23 February 2017**.
