Essay Assignment: Environment

Select one of the topics below and write an essay on it:

1. Recycling actually makes a positive difference to the environment—agree or disagree.
2. Discuss the decline of the world’s bird population and explain the causes of this trend.
3. Discuss how mining for fossil fuels affects the environment. If you’d like, you can narrow the scope of your investigation to one kind of fossil fuel, such as oil, natural gas, or coal.
4. In an essay, make a choice and defend it: Is it better to widen a highway in your community to accommodate a growth in traffic, or is it better to protect your community’s green space? As you discuss this topic, you can develop your main idea in a discussion of Savannah or your home community.

As you develop this essay, you must consult some reliable, appropriate sources that you found using our library’s databases (remember that our databases help you find both print and electronic sources). I recommend starting with CQ Researcher and narrowing your search from there. But you might also try the following databases:

**Ecology-Specific Databases:**
- Green FILE
- Environment Complete
- DOE Green Energy

**Inter-Disciplinary Databases:**
- Academic Search Complete
- Research Library
- Web of Science

Although peer reviewed scholarly journals are great sources for this paper, you might also find credible, appropriate information from the following publications:

- National Geographic
- Smithsonian
- Environment
- Down to Earth
- Greenwire
- E—The Environmental Magazine
- Natural History
- Nature

You might also find relevant, reliable articles in general current events magazines, such as the following:

- Time
- Newsweek
- U.S. News and World Report
- The New Yorker
- Harper’s Monthly

These are just a few. When searching for sources, find publications that will be relevant to your topic and offer information that’s been investigated thoroughly and is written for an audience of adult, educated readers.

Turn the page over for a list of criteria you must meet when you do this assignment.
As you write this essay, you must demonstrate the following writing skills:

- The paper should open with a catchy hook.
- The introduction should lead to a clear main idea.
- Body paragraphs must be logically organized with each paragraph being unified and coherent.
- Body paragraphs should be developed thoroughly with concrete examples, which should come from appropriate sources (see the front page), which you found using the library’s databases. You must refer to at least three sources, and you must use those sources to help you develop your body paragraphs, not the introduction and conclusion.
- Or here’s another option. You could substitute two personal interviews for one reliable print/electronic source. Two interviews can replace one source. One of those interviews should be with an environmental expert, such as someone at the Department of Natural Resources, a manager of a recycling center, or an engineer at an energy company. The second interview should be a stakeholder interview—not necessarily an expert, but someone who has experience with or is affected by your topic, such as someone who lives on a highway that’s about to be widened, or someone who recycles all the time, or a bird watcher. Consult me if you have questions about the appropriateness of your interview choices.
- The paper should employ a captivating writing style.
- It should extend beyond the typical five-paragraph format, to reveal intellectual investment indicative of a college student.
- It should show careful proofreading and correct documentation of sources in current MLA style, both in the text and on the works cited page.
- The essay and works cited page should be all in one document.

As usual, compose your paper on a word processor and save it as Microsoft Word or in Rich Text Format. This essay is due at 11:59 PM, ET Sunday, October 27th. You will submit this paper using the Dropbox in Desire2 Learn. It is your responsibility to ensure your paper got to Dr. Remler. Please contact her if you have questions.