

# Island Ecology for Educators

## Graduate Paper

In order to meet the graduate school requirements for the Island Ecology for Educators class, students are required to prepare a product that distinguishes between the requirements, expectations and learning objectives of undergraduates versus graduate students.

Please prepare a descriptive paper **and** video that focuses on ONE of the two following topics:

- A local ecological organization, **or**
- A specific historical event/figure that has impacted the local ecology of the island

Specific requirements are at the bottom of the page. Topics do not need to be approved, but should be shared with instructors prior to engaging upon the research.

### Choice One – Feature a Local Ecological Organization

1. Choose a local organization of ecological and/or environmental influence and focus on the impact this group has on the Southeastern North Carolina coast.
  - What does this organization do?
  - Why is there a need for this organization to exist?
  - Some examples could include: Cape Fear River Watch, North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher, Airlie Gardens, UNCW's Marine Quest, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, etc.)
2. Conduct at least one interview with a member of the local organization either by phone or in person.
  - Develop a short interview questionnaire (maybe 5 questions that may require "follow-up" questions) in which you gather information about the organization and its efforts to impact the region both environmentally and educationally.
  - It may be best to contact an educational outreach specialist within the organization and focus on the 'highlights' of their efforts.
3. Provide the reader with a **summary** of the organization's statement of purpose and mission.
  - While this information may be readily found online, it is important to ask an organizational representative to clarify the organizations purpose and mission, ask for tangible examples and get an understanding of how the organization measures their success.
  - What current obstacles exist for the organization to be more successful/influential?
4. Describe a brief history of the organizations work advocating for environmental change within the local community.

- Some information may be found using the organization’s website online; other information can be gleaned from an interview questionnaire with a representative, while further information may be found using a Google news search.
5. Describe current (and future) efforts by the organization to enact change in our coastal region.
  6. What are your thoughts about the organization?
    - Be candid with your instructors. What does the organization do best?
    - Do you see the organization as being successful in meeting their objectives and mission? If so, describe how and why.
    - Do you see the organization as adding value to the region? If so, why? Why not?
    - Do you feel there are other things the organization could do to advocate for environmental literacy (both content understanding and educational outreach)?
  7. Create a short 5-8 minute video documentary to capture an ecological and/or environmental issue that is the focus of your chosen organization.
    - Using FLIP cameras (or any smartphone/tablet) as video recording devices, you are to highlight an educational or social issue you have observed in Belize
    - Each individual student will prepare a short story about the issue using video, images and text
    - All student documentaries will be shown during a “Final Exam - Red Carpet Event” on campus in the Watson College
    - Students will be provided with access to video editing software and expertise when back on campus

### **Choice Two – Feature a Historical Event/Figure with Local Ecological Impact**

1. Choose an event/figure of ecological and/or environmental influence. Focus on the historical impact that this event/figure has had on the Southeastern North Carolina coast.
  - What did this event/figure do to have an impact on the history of local barrier island ecology?
  - Why was the event/figure so historically relevant to the coastal region?
  - Some examples of events/figures discussed in class one could choose an outlet for their choice: the Fort Fisher Hermit, Hurricane Fran or Floyd, Beach Re-nourishment, Snow’s Cut, Hardened Structures, Fort Fisher, etc.
2. Conduct relevant research on the event/figure using an academic search engine (see many of the UNCW library home page) on the event/figure of choice.
  - Use primary resources (those found locally i.e. Cape Fear Museum, Federal Point Library, Fort Fisher Museum) or internet based articles/journals to gather information about the event/figure

- Describe how the event/figure impacted the region both environmentally and educationally.
  - Use at least five citations in your research.
  - Be sure to utilize both recent and archived news reports.
3. Describe any political consequences that the event/figure may have had on the coastal region.
    - Has there been any change in legislation due to the event/figure?
    - Have there been any advocacy efforts due to the event/figure?
  4. Describe any ecological consequences that event/figure may have had on the coastal region.
    - Have there been any changes to the local ecology of the island?
  5. Why did you choose the feature this historical event/figure?
    - Describe your interest in the topic.
  6. Create a short 5-8 minute video documentary capturing the historical impact that this event/figure has had on the Southeastern North Carolina coast.
    - Using FLIP cameras (or any smartphone/tablet) as video recording devices, you are to highlight an educational or social issue you have observed in Belize
    - Each individual student will prepare a short story about the issue using video, images and text
    - All student documentaries will be shown during a “Final Exam - Red Carpet Event” on campus in the Watson College
    - Students will be provided with access to video editing software and expertise when back on campus

### Descriptive Paper Requirements

- Paper should be prepared using MS Word
- Paper should be between 4-6 pages
- Spacing should be 1.5
- Font size should be 12
- Margin requirements should be the default word document size (i.e. one inch on each side).
- Please title your paper and have a title page
- Images, tables, figures and illustrations can be utilized to support the descriptions
- Internal references to interviews, content, images, etc. are required
- Bibliography should follow APA guidelines (Land Mark Projects Citation Machine can assist students)

## Video Requirements

- 5-8 minutes in length
- Each student is required to capture, edit and utilize original footage; it is important that your documentary tells “a story”
- The integration of images, text, music and slides is encouraged
- PLEASE be creative! Take some risks in your approach to your documentary
- There are many easy to use video editing tools; we will invite the Watson College technology team during the last week to assist with your documentaries
- All video documentaries will be uploaded successfully to YouTube
- All video documentaries will be viewed during the final student presentation