

Research Assignment Summer 2010

The goal of this course is to raise awareness of current events and their connections to the domestic and international political scenes. Understanding the American government's position on an issue and its involvement to resolve it as a member of the international community are key components of our program. Alongside national governments, NGOs (Non Governmental Organizations) provide help on a variety of issues. While NGOs such as *Amnesty International* and *Doctors Without Borders* are well known in the humanitarian field, there are many more that are involved around the world in scientific, technological, environmental, economic, educational, or relief endeavors.

Expectations

1. Go to the following website <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwc.nsf/doc202?OpenForm> (Filter by Type: NGO) and select **ONE** NGO that provides a service **you are interested in**. (They are listed in alphabetical order; take the time to investigate)
2. Research the **background** of the NGO
 - ✓ Who founded it and when? Why did that person get involved in that field?
 - ✓ Where is its base office located and why?
 - ✓ How is it financed? What is its current budget?
 - ✓ What are its goals?
3. Explore the **present involvement** (2010) of your NGO in the world
 - ✓ Location of the issue
 - ✓ Reason for involvement
 - ✓ Means used to resolve the issue (financial support, advisors, experts, etc.)
 - ✓ Timetable of mission (from start to finish)
 - ✓ Connection to any government, other NGOs or international agencies
 - ✓ US connection to this NGO if any (this may take a bit of digging)
4. EXTRA-CREDIT- **Connect** with a member of the organization
 - ✓ Email the NGO (use the *contact us* link)
 - ✓ Explain your interest and list any questions you may have
 - ✓ Connect with someone who is presently involved in the mission you are researching
 - ✓ Get specific details on his or her personal responsibilities and activities
 - ✓ Keep a log of the exchanges
5. **Research Paper Format**
 - Heading (name, class and date) and title (name of NGO and its current mission)
 - Typed, double spaced, Time News Roman 12 font, 1 inch margins
 - Three to five pages long (not counting sources page or log)
 - Answer ALL questions clearly and concisely (NO cutting and pasting of website postings as that would be *plagiarism*, but you can use short quotations)
 - Attach contact log to the paper (entries **MUST** be dated and **CAN** be cut and pasted from your emails and your contact's responses)

6. Paper Sections

1. *Introduction*: your reason for selection and overall interest; NGO's main field of action (humanitarian, economic, environmental, etc.)
2. *First section*: background information about NGO's founder/s
3. *Second section*: presentation of general facts & statistics
4. *Third section*: present (2010) involvement and evaluation of mission's success
5. *Extra section*: analysis of log and information gathered
6. *Conclusion*: personal reaction to choice and NGO's present actions
7. *Sources page*: NGO's main webpage address and any other sources you may have used in your research; must be in MLA or APA format (see Library Media Center)
8. *Attachment*: contact log for extra-credit

Grading Rubric

<i>TASKS</i>	<i>Somewhat</i>	<i>Mostly</i>	<i>Definitely</i>	<i>Above and beyond</i>
Paper follows required format	14	16	18	20
Information is substantive and well researched	14	16	18	20
Analysis of information is in depth and demonstrates thoroughness	14	16	18	20
Reflection shows student's ability to evaluate research information	14	16	18	20
Paper has been proofread for spelling and grammar	4	6	8	10
Source page is included and follows MLA or APA format	4	6	8	10
<i>TOTAL</i>				/100

7. Follow up

- a. You will be **presenting your research** the second and third days of class.
- b. Your information will become part of an **awareness campaign** we will create for our school during the semester.
- c. You will be expected to **update the information on your NGO** during the course of the semester so stay in touch with your contact person if you have one.

Reminders

- ❖ Your paper is due the **first day of class in September** (Monday 9/13). It will be counted as your first test grade for the semester.
- ❖ Late assignments will lose 10 points per DAY. NO assignment will be accepted after Sept. 17.
- ❖ Do NOT wait until the last minute; research must be thorough. In addition, it may take a while to contact people in the field, so start early and be patient!
- ❖ Feel free to contact me over the summer at cheskestad@tufsd.org or email me your paper as an attachment **before** the due date. If you do not hear back from me, I did not receive your message.