STAYING CURRENT WITH THE ISSUES!

1) **Choose a subtopic from the list of topics in your text:** “Stuff: The secret lives of everyday things.” You must use the College’s Library databases/resources, and may utilize books, journals, periodicals, news services, etc.; however, the sources used must be reputable (check with me if you are uncertain as to the validity of the resources, or if you have difficulty finding acceptable or sufficient resources). **Your focus must be on the ‘current state’ of the issue, with references covering your subtopic no older than one year prior to your assigned date.** A minimum of two references are required! **Your book may be used as a reference, but you must have at least two additional references.** The articles covering your subtopic can be local, regional, national or international in scope. The articles must contain sufficient information to provide the following:

2) **Using MLA format, prepare a two-page, double-spaced typed synthesis or summary** of the subtopic/issue **IN YOUR OWN WORDS.** I will not accept a document other than the typical “word-processor” document (i.e., no “power point” slide document, etc.). The two-page summary must include the following items:

   a) The “thesis” of your paper - the topic and subtopic/issue being discussed.

   b) Pertinent (important or relevant) facts and any significant background information regarding the subtopic.

   c) **Update** your subtopic utilizing the articles chosen as references:
      - how the state of the issue has changed (positively or negatively); what we know, what we don’t know
      **Note:** You must cite your references/sources in the text, using MLA format!! Also, you MUST REFERENCE ANY INFORMATION TAKEN FROM THE ARTICLES – NOT JUST DIRECT QUOTES TAKEN FROM THE ARTICLES!!!!

   d) Limit your use of quotations! No more than two quotes may be used in the paper.

   e) The final paragraph must discuss the implications for conservation (i.e., for the species, environment, habitat, human populations, etc.). **Think** about what these might be (good or bad).

   f) References/Literature cited page. You must reference your literature sources. Provide the date, the publication, authors, publishers, website, etc., using MLA format after the text portion, at the end of your paper!

   g) Text margins must be set according to MLA guidelines.

3) **You must include a copy of the references/articles with your paper!**

4) From your written paper (and additional notes if necessary) prepare **ONLY** a 3-4 minute oral presentation (you may include visual aids). **PRACTICE YOUR PRESENTATION!** At the end of 4 minutes, your presentation time will end.

5) **Be prepared for student and instructor questions.** A brief question/answer and discussion session will follow each presentation.
6) Your presentation and written paper are due *IN CLASS* on the day you are assigned!

7) Each student must complete the assignment as part of the course requirements. Each student is responsible for signing up for his/her assignment due date!!! Failure to signup IN ADVANCE and complete the assignment will result in a failing grade for the course!

8) Each student must complete his/her own assignment!! Any written paper or presentation used from a previous semester, copied from another student, etc. will be scored a 0.

9) The written paper must be IN YOUR OWN WORDS, and you must cite references in the text and in the references cited page. Plagiarized material will result in a score of 0 on the assignment!

10) EACH STUDENT MUST COMMUNICATE WITH INSTRUCTOR REGARDING SUBTOPIC CHOICE, AND MUST RECEIVE INSTRUCTOR APPROVAL.

11) NO DUPLICATE SUBTOPICS!!

**ASSIGNMENT GRADING:**

*Total Assignment Points Possible = 100*

* Grading Scheme: (Point deductions maximum = 100 points)
  - Hand-written papers will not be accepted!!
  - -10 pts. if not in MLA format
  - -10 pts. for no topic approval
  - -15 pts. for duplicate topic
  - -15 pts. for only one reference source
  - -5-30 pts. for incorrect margins, short text portion, etc.
  - -15 pts. for no typed reference citation page
  - -20 pts. for no reference citations in the text
  - -20 pts. for no dated articles. The date of the article is NOT typically the day you print the article!
  - -15 pts. for each article not provided WITH the written summary. Note: Exception will be made if you provide the articles by 4pm the day of your presentation due date. There will still be a penalty (-5pts. total). Articles not received by 4pm of the assignment due date will not be accepted, and will earn the penalty as stated above (-15 pts. for each article not provided with the written summary).
  - -10 pts. for each outdated article (does not pertain if you have instructor permission – but you must provide documentation)
  - -8 pts. for no summary/final paragraph

* Additional deductions may be applied as deemed appropriate, and include, but are not limited to the following: inappropriate language used in the written paper or during the presentation; poor grammar, spelling, etc.*

**Deductions for Late Papers and/or Presentations:**

- 20 points deducted for late presentation or written report. Any other deductions will also be subtracted from this score. You will be rescheduled (via email message through MyJeffco) for your written paper and presentation due date. **You are responsible for checking your email and being prepared on the rescheduled date!!** If you do not complete the assignment on the rescheduled date indicated by the instructor, you will receive a score of 0 on the assignment and **WILL NOT FULFILL THE COURSE REQUIREMENTS, AND WILL HAVE EARNED A FAILING GRADE FOR THE COURSE!!!**
In addition to the above general requirements, you must provide a 4-page written summary, using 4 reference articles. All must be in accordance with the assignment instructions, and you must present the written paper on the date indicated.

In addition to the above, you must provide a 5-6 minute oral presentation on the date assigned by the instructor.

**Note:** If you are absent on your assignment due date, and you provide me with your written paper prior to the start of your class period assignment due date (through email or hard copy), I will reschedule you with no late assignment penalty. If I do not receive the written paper per the above instructions, the late assignment deductions and requirements will apply.

*Note: Instructor reserves the right to amend any of the above as deemed appropriate.*