

Woody,

I think the writing assignment I developed is a good one, and I will use it when I teach 101 again. The whole idea of the Green Modules project was great, and I'm glad I participated.

When I do use this assignment again, I plan to change it a bit. I'll still ask the students to use four sources – but I'll limit it to four, not six or twelve, which some students used. From their papers, I think using more sources complicates the process – and the success - of their papers. I also will ask them to write it as a persuasive research paper, but I will ask them to write it in first person. This assignment has many parts to it; and by having them do the research and use MLA format, I think that pushes many of my students enough. Asking them to do the paper in third person seems to result in a “copy and paste” approach with little critical thinking by a number of students. By having them do the paper in first person, I can ask them to include either their own water consumption or their response to “How do I value water” as a source. They also could use the interview with a person from the class. That means I need to design a criteria sheet for the interview, so that they have a guideline to follow regarding questions, etc. I think the changes, though, will make for better, more persuasive and more compelling papers.

Thanks again, Woody. Let me know if you want me to ask Lauri to scan some of the students' papers – if those would be useful for the report.