

Name: _____

Block: _____

Invasive Species Paper Instructions

DUE DATE: A-day: 10/24/12 B-day 10/25/12

As part of the ecology unit, you will write a 2-3 page paper on a specific invasive species. You will pick one invasive species to write about and you will become an expert on that invasive species. The paper is worth **75 points** and will be a grade in the **test** category of Infinite Campus.

Your first step will be to pick an invasive species to research. You **MAY NOT PICK** the zebra mussel, as the textbook discusses this species in detail. I recommend you go to <http://www.invasive.org/species.cfm> to find an invasive species. If you want to find an invasive species in Kentucky, scroll down to the map of the United States. However, you can choose any invasive species in the United States – it doesn't have to be in Kentucky. Do pick an invasive species in the United States. **DO NOT PICK THE ZEBRA MUSSEL!**

Staple this grading rubric to the front of your paper, so that I don't have to make another copy of the rubric to record your grade as I read your paper.

You should obtain information from at **least 3 different** websites. I don't care what format you use to cite your sources, but you must use something. You are welcome to use APA or MLA style or you can do something simple (see example below). Regardless, you must list your references at the end of your paper and you must cite the sources **WITHIN** the paper. Plagiarism will not be tolerated, if you are going to use someone else's words, give them credit!!

Example of Simple Documentation

Invasive species are non-native species introduced into an ecosystem which cause economic harm, environmental harm, or harm to human health (2). The mimosa is a specific type of invasive species that resembles ferns. Mimosas were introduced into the United States in 1745 and are native to Asia (3).

References

1. <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/>
2. <http://www.fws.gov/invasives/>
3. <http://www.invasive.org/species.cfm>

Grading Rubric

	Points Possible	Points Earned
Introduction Paragraph <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be at least 5 Sentences • Includes a Definition of Invasive Species • Includes general characteristics of Invasive Species – what allows them to thrive in new environments? • Indicates the Specific Invasive Species that will be described in the paper 	10	
Body Paragraph 1 – General Characteristics of the Species you pick (History) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description • Location (typical environment, states affected) • When was it introduced to the U.S.? • What country is it native to? • Must be at least 4 sentences. 	10	
Body Paragraph 2 - Why is it considered invasive? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss why the species is considered invasive. • Give at least two examples of how the species has negatively impacted its ecosystem and/or biodiversity. • Must be at least 4 sentences. 	10	
Body Paragraph 3 – What is being done to control the invasive species? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss what methods humans are using to mitigate the situation caused by the species. • Must be at least 3 sentences 	10	
Conclusion Paragraph <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must sum up information discussed in paper • Must be at least 5 sentences 	10	
References <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must list at least 3 references at end of paper • Must document sources within the paper (see example) • Plagiarism will not be tolerated 	10	
Diagram/Graph/Picture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must include one diagram/graph/picture • Must make reference to the diagram/graph/picture as part of the text of the paper • Not so big it takes away from the content 	8	
Format <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-3 page typed paper (diagram and references included in the 2-3 page limit as long as they aren't sized ridiculously) • double-spaced • 12 point font • 1-inch margins on all sides 	7	