

Human Impact on the Environment: An Analysis of its Costs and Benefits

As a DTI fellow in the Organisms—Adaptations for Survival in Aquatic Environments Seminar, my eyes have been opened to the many dangers humans have posed to organisms and their environments. Though I was aware that humans have overharvested some animals, while bulldozing the habitats of others and introducing harmful pollutants into still others, I did not understand the full scope or extent of this damage until now.

Though I am an English teacher, and not a science teacher, I feel it is my role to expose students to issues that our world is facing so that this generation of students grows up aware and ready to take action. I feel that this is of particular importance at the inner-city school where I teach, where so many of students are familiar only with Wilmington.

Our focus for this unit, which is intended for either a ninth or tenth grade ELA course, will be on how to synthesize information across multiple texts to establish argumentative writing. We will do so by considering the following question: Have humans ultimately harmed or benefitted the environment? This unit will help us transition from a unit in which students are writing expository pieces to writing an essay of argument in which they must develop their own research question and conduct their own research.