

Essay #1-- Due Date is Given on the Class Website (30 Points)
Conservation Biology
Spring 2011

Introduction to question: As we have said, conservation biology is a "value-laden science." The sub-title of our book is "balancing the needs of people and nature." You have now been exposed to a number of ethical systems that give their practitioners guidance as to what the balance should look like. It is also likely that you came to this course with beliefs of your own.

In concise and well-unified essay: Present a well-reasoned discussion of what you believe in terms of an ethical/philosophical justification for biological conservation. Work in ideas we learned in class to the extent that it is consistent with what you believe (or what you might wish to criticize). What do you hope the Earth will look like as a result of your beliefs (different ethics can result in very different final results)? Please be realistic, consistent and thoughtful. Write this as if you were presenting your views to someone who is skeptical towards them but whom you wish to persuade to your viewpoint.

Length of Essay and Formatting: The essay should be 1000 to 1250 words. Significantly longer or shorter essays will be penalized.

Format: MS word format. The entire paper should be 1.5 spaced with 1" margins top and bottom, 1.25" right and left. Use 12-point text, "Arial" font.

- On the first page of your essay please type Conservation Biology Essay #1 followed by a very brief title. On the next line, put "Spring 2010" and then your name on the line below that, Skip a line and then start your essay.
- **List the word count** at the end of the essay.
- PLEASE PUT PAGE NUMBERS and YOUR LAST NAME in a HEADER.

Rules: This essay is open book, open notes, open literature, open other students, and open professor. Please avoid the internet, especially on-line encyclopedias, unless you know the source is reliable.

When you write your essay, you must write it on your own. You may not share outlines nor show your work, in any stage to anyone else. Originality matters on this paper and to the extent yours resembles someone else's too much, both grades will suffer or worse. *The best essay will synthesize what we learned in class and from the readings in the text and other handouts. Simple recounting of those notes and lectures, while OK to the extent that they are correct, will not receive the highest possible mark. Nor should you endorse the views you think I would like to hear – whatever you endorse, however, you must defend and defend well.*

It is not necessary to have sources; class sources need not be cited. However, any non-class notes)= must be properly cited. Citations should be numbered as they occur and full citation given in a reference section at the end. The literature cited section, if any, does not count in the length of the paper. Please, use quotes only sparingly if at all, and, be sure you paraphrase correctly (i.e., truly put it into your own words).

Submission: All essays are to be submitted two ways:

- Hard copy at the start of class (they are considered late if not turned in)
- electronically as an e-mail attachment. Use the following filename format:
YOURLASTNAME_cb_essay1.doc
I must receive both submissions no later than the start of class on the due date.