

SCI 200 Project Part One: Topic Choice Guidelines and Rubric

Overview: To start working on your planning document, you will review potential issues in the natural sciences and choose the issue you want to research in your project. Each topic in the Soomo webtext will include a potential question and a nonacademic source that you can review to help you judge whether you are interested in the topic. If none of these topics interest you, you can choose your own topic with the approval of your instructor.

Prompt: Select a contemporary issue in the natural sciences to investigate. You may select an issue that was discussed in the course, or you may select your own if you have instructor approval. You could consider using your topic and question from Perspectives in the Natural Sciences if they are something you would like to investigate further for this project. In this first step, you will identify your chosen issue and explain why it is significant.

Specifically, the following **critical elements** must be addressed:

- Describe the **issue** in the natural sciences that you have selected to investigate.
- Explain why this issue is **significant**. This may include how it is significant to you personally or professionally, or how it is significant to society as a whole.

Rubric

Guidelines for Submission: Your topic choice should be one to two paragraphs, double spaced, with 12-point Times New Roman font and one-inch margins. You should use current APA guidelines (or another format approved by your instructor) for any citations or references.

Critical Elements	Proficient (100%)	Needs Improvement (75%)	Not Evident (0%)	Value
Issue	Describes issue in natural sciences to investigate	Describes issue in natural sciences to investigate, but with gaps in appropriateness, relevance, or detail	Does not identify issue in natural sciences to investigate	40
Significance	Clearly explains the significance of the chosen issue	Explains the significance of the chosen issue, but with gaps in appropriateness, relevance, or detail	Does not explain the significance of the chosen issue	40
Articulation of Response	Submission has no major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization	Submission has major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that negatively impact readability and articulation of main ideas	Submission has critical errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that prevent understanding of ideas	20
Total				100%