Honors Environmental Science

Journal Rubric

2025-2026

Use a LARGE spiral notebook (a 4-5 subject notebook is perfect!) or a 3-ring binder with write on dividers. Journals will be turned in on the **Wednesday** before the end of the quarter and will count as an **ASSESSMENT GRADE** for that quarter.

Put your name, period and grade level on the cover (feel free to decorate it!). Number the pages and create dividers to separate each grading period. Include the following for EACH QUARTER.

1. **Three (3) Current Events/Science Articles (60 pts = 20 pts each)**
   * Must be related to Environmental Science (**choose a topic from class OR one of the environmental policies or legislation listed listed below**)
   * Article must have been published between January 1st, 2024 – present day
   * Possible sources: newspapers, magazines, journals (must have an author’s name)
   * Tape/staple the printed article to the left page & write on the facing page:
2. APA Citation & Title (Date, Author, Source, URL, etc.) (4 pts)
3. First paragraph: Summary of article (just the facts & claims made) (8 pts)
4. Second paragraph: Discussion of the article (evaluate any CLAIMS made, using EVIDENCE and REASONING, and suggest possible SOLUTIONS to environmental problems) (8 pts)
5. **Learning our planet (10 pts)**

1st Quarter:

* Latitude and longitude of your home
* Draw/print map of the “Brownfield Sites” nearest your home
* Draw/print a labeled map of the world’s tectonic plate boundaries

2nd Quarter:

* Arkabutla Lake elevation above sea level
* Map of Arkabutla Lake watershed showing closest river, lake and reservoir

3rd Quarter:

* Draw/print map of world ocean currents & prevailing winds
* Draw/print layers of the Earth (labeled)
* Draw/print soil horizons (labeled and described)

4th Quarter:

* Printed picture of an endangered plant, mammal, bird AND fish currently found in Shelby County, TN (include both common and scientific names)
* Draw/print layers of the atmosphere-labeled and described

1. **Class Notes (20pts)**
   * SUMMARIZE our lecture powerpoints: Define new vocab terms in your own words. Use words, diagrams, symbols, whatever.
   * This portion is for YOU to document what you need to remember (I won’t be grading this for QUALITY, just that you have it completed (QUANTITY).

**Environmental Policies and/or Legislation**

The requisite environmental policies and legislation are as follows:

* Clean Air Act
* (CITES)
* Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)
* Montreal Protocol
* Kyoto Protocol
* Endangered Species Act
* Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)
* Delaney Clause of Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act
* Resource Conservations and Recovery Act (RCRA)Clean Water Act
* Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora