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Professor Else

English 101

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Proposal for research papers

Topic 2:

For my second essay, I plan to research the impact of outdoor recreation on the environment and our planet. As an outdoor enthusiast, I like to be able to enjoy the beauty and the solitude only found in nature away from the sights and sounds of civilization. New technologies allow us to do that in ways not possible years ago. We are able to stay out longer in colder weather, climb higher, ride our bikes faster, and venture deeper into the backcountry. As a mountain biker and climber, this topic has become ever present in my mind, especially because I notice how my activities impact the plants and the animals that call my playground home.

To discover the answer to this question, I will need to follow a specific plan. I will begin by using the search terms “outdoor recreation,” “ecological impact,” “erosion,” “pollution,” “environment,” “leave no trace,” in the WCC library’s environmental and scientific databases. These scholarly resources make the best sense because they have the most credibility. In addition, I will search the internet for articles such as “The Impact of Outdoor Recreation on The Environment,” by Jaffrey Zakaria, and “Riding Bikes May Be Green, But The Manufacturing Behind Them Can Be Far From It,” by Sarah Max. Finally, I will search for articles in *Outside* magazine and on websites like phys.org and Int.org. I hope to have gathered most of my sources

by March 20 so I can get started on my annotated bibliography by March 21 as my draft is due on March 28.

Gathering these sources and doing my research matters to me because I will have a better understanding of how my actions impact the environment. For example, carbon fiber mountain bike frames are becoming the norm, but I stick to aluminum frames because they are more recyclable and environmentally friendly—or are they not? The topic itself has significance to a larger audience, like mountain bikers, climbers, hikers, skiers, and water sports enthusiasts to name a few. The fuel used to get to the places where you can do these activities increases the carbon footprint. Also these activities leave signs of human presence where you would expect to find pristine nature. If my impact can be noticeable on a small scale, then I wonder what kind of impact outdoor recreation has on the environment and our planet on a larger scale. I hope this research will help people to enjoy the outdoors in a less impactful way.