**Native Biomes Project / Current Events / Field Journal**

**I. Native Biomes Project**

You will be partnered up with other students to create and maintain a year-long native biomes aquarium or terrarium. Initially, your group will determine which type of native biome you would like to model, identify plant and animal species needed for the biome, conditions (heating, lighting, feeding, diet, temperature, humidity) necessary for the biome to be successful, a price estimate of upstart costs, and a maintenance schedule for ALL group members. Fundraising will be done to offset construction costs. Once the native biome is created, you will be responsible for the set-up until the end of the school-year (except winter break), which means that you will take turns feeding the animal but help with watering, fecal cleaning, glass appearance, and filling out the log sheet every day of every week. Your group will be issued up to 10 points each week for the biome, but if the animal dies due to NEGLECT then the group will be issued a paper (animal cruelty, biome sensitivity, etc.) due at the end of the semester. The penalty paper will consist of as many pages as weeks that are left in the semester.

**II. Current Events**

You will be asked to gather current events articles pertaining to plant-life, wildlife, conservation, waterways, energy, pollution, geology, or natural resources in Iowa. One article per quarter must be turned in and these articles will be presented to the class. These current events may be chosen from local newspapers, online sources, or other appropriate sources. Each article must have some substance, i.e., not be just a report of fishing conditions in Iowa. Students should write a half-page summation of the article and then explain (1/2 page) how this article is important in your life. The original article must also be included and stapled to your summation. Current events must be typed (double-spaced) and be submitted at the time of your assigned date. The project is worth 60 points each quarter.

**III. Field Journal**

This class will perform numerous activities in the field. Some activities will be formal laboratory experiments with corresponding data sheets. Other times, we will be hiking in parks, touring facilities, or collecting specimens. It is required that an ongoing field journal be created that includes dates, drawings, and accounts of what you experience in the field. It is essential to record observations, thoughts, and drawings as soon as possible so that the experiences do not fade with time. Class time may be given to record journal entries. I do not expect every student to be top-tier artists, but observational drawings are critical for recalling field specimens and therefore drawings must be representative and capable of identification. Field journals will be graded at the end of each quarter and worth 100 points. Grading will be based on content, quality, and effort. The grading will also be based on a staggered-curve. If you miss a “field day” you will be responsible for contacting other students about days missed for the sake of journal entries. If the field journal is lost, then a 10-page paper (pertaining to outdoor class experiences) will substitute the journal points.