**POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR “HUMAN IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT” PROJECTS  
  
DEPLETION OF OZONE LAYER/ “Ozone Hole”:  
What is it? Where is it?  
What is a CFC?  
Why is the ozone hole a problem?  
What is the cause?  
How big is/was the problem?  
How has this changed in recent years?  
What has been/is being done to “fix” this environmental problem?  
What is the Montreal protocol?  
Which countries have agreed to participate?  
What is the current situation?  
  
DEAD ZONES  
What is eutrophication?   
What is the cause?  
What happens to organisms in areas where eutrophication happens?  
Where are dead zones found?   
What harm does this cause organisms/ecosystems?  
How big is the problem/What is the current situation?   
How has this changed in recent years?  
What could be done/is being done to “fix” this environmental problem?**

**GARBAGE GYRES  
Where are these found?  
What is the cause?  
What harm does this cause organisms/ecosystems?  
How big is the problem/What is current situation?  
How has this changed in recent years?  
What could be done/is being done to “fix” this environmental problem?  
  
ACID RAIN  
What is acid rain?  
What is the cause?  
What harm does this cause to organisms/ecosystems?  
How big is the problem/What is the current situation?  
How has this changed in recent years?  
What could be done/is being done to “fix” this environmental problem?**

**ACIDIFICATION OF OCEANS/CORAL BLEACHING  
How does CO2 gas affect the acidity of water?   
What is causing oceans to become more acidic?  
What harm does this cause to organisms/ecosystems?  
What is coral bleaching? What is the cause? Why is this a problem?  
How big is the problem/What is the current situation?  
How has this changed in recent years?  
What could be done/is being done to “fix” this environmental problem?  
  
FRACKING  
What is “fracking"?   
Why is it done?  
Is there a connection between fracking and earthquakes?  
What harm does this cause the organisms/ecosystems?  
How big is the problem/What is the current situation?  
How has this changed in recent years?  
What could be done/is being done to “fix” this environmental problem?  
  
DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL  
What happened?  
What was/were the cause(s)?  
What harm did this cause the organisms/ecosystems?  
How big is the problem/What is the current situation?  
How has this changed in recent years?  
What could be done/is being done to “fix” this environmental problem?**

**OVERHUNTING OF WHALES  
What has happened/is happening to the whale populations on the planet?  
Why are whales being hunted?  
What is the International Whaling Commission?   
What is the Convention for the Regulation of Whaling** **? Why was it created?  
How are the actions of some countries like Japan and Russia impacting the situation?  
What harm does this cause to organisms/ecosystems?  
How big is the problem/What is the current situation?  
How has this changed in recent years?  
What could be done/is being done to “fix” this environmental problem?**

**BPA in plastics  
What is BPA?  
What is it used for?  
What harm does this cause to organisms/ecosystems?  
How big is the problem/What is the current situation?  
How has this changed in recent years?  
What could be done/is being done to “fix” this environmental problem?  
FUKUSHIMA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT ACCIDENT  
What happened?  
What was the cause?  
What harm did this cause to organisms/ecosystems?  
How big is the problem/What is the current situation?  
How has this changed in recent years?  
What could be done/is being done to “fix” this environmental problem?  
  
DEFORESTATION  
What is happening to the forests on the planet?  
Why are we cutting down the trees?  
Where on the planet is this happening?  
What harm does this cause to organisms/ecosystems?  
How does deforestation impact other environmental problems like climate change,  
 habitat fragmentation, endangered species?  
How big is the problem/What is the current situation?  
How has this changed in recent years?  
What could be done/is being done to “fix” this environmental problem?  
  
AQUIFER DEPLETION/WATER SHORTAGES  
What is an aquifer?  
Where are aquifers located in the United States?  
What aquifer(s) is/are found in South Dakota?  
What do humans use aquifers for?  
What is happening to our aquifers?  
What is the cause of this problem?  
What harm does this cause to organisms/ecosystems?  
How big is the problem/What is the current situation?  
How has this changed in recent years?  
What could be done/is being done to “fix” this environmental problem?  
  
INVASIVE SPECIES  
What is an invasive species?  
What impact do invasive species have on native organisms/ecosystems?  
What is the cause of this problem?  
What happened when rabbits were introduced to Australia in the 1800’s?  
What are some examples of invasive species in the United States?  
What are some examples of invasive species in South Dakota?  
How big is the problem/What is the current situation?  
How has this changed in recent years?  
What could be done/is being done to “fix” this environmental problem**