

Environmental Studies 137 - B: *Minnesota Environmental Partnership Project*

Overview: The Minnesota Environmental Partnership is “a network of more than eighty-seven non-profit environmental and conservation organizations working together to protect, restore and enjoy Minnesota's precious natural resources.” For this assignment, you will research one of these eighty-seven organizations and hand in a summary of what you have learned.

Website: <http://www.mepartnership.org>

Assignment: This assignment will be completed in two parts. By clicking on the tab marked “Member Groups” on the Minnesota Environmental Partnership’s website, you can access the contact information for your organization. Go to your organization’s website and read as much as you feel is necessary to understand why your organization exists and its goals are. For the first part of your assignment, you are to come up with four questions about different aspects of your assigned organization which you would like to learn more about. Your questions should be fairly specific. A question such as “What are you planning to do next year?” does not show that you have put any thought into your project whatsoever. “Given our governor’s stance on enforcing existing blueberry production laws, how do you think he will react to your proposal to import Maine blueberries?” is an example of a question, albeit a silly one, which would demonstrate to me that you have researched your organization thoroughly and understand its objectives. These four questions constitute the first part of your assignment.

For the second part of your assignment, you will have the opportunity to ask your questions to a representative of your assigned organization. Ideally, I hope that you are able to do this in a telephone interview, but since this may not be possible in all cases, you may e-mail your questions, but only if necessary. The contact information for a representative of your organization can be found on the Minnesota Environmental Partnership’s website. Be sure to identify yourself as a St. Olaf student doing this for a class, and, if you are conducting this interview by e-mail, politely ask for a somewhat prompt response. Keep in mind that in your contact with these individuals you are representing this college. Take notes on your conversation and the responses you receive. The second part of your assignment will be a summary of this conversation. Also, include a few comments on your thoughts about the organization, its goals, and its ability to reach those goals.

Dates: First Part Due: September 23
Second Part Due: October 14