Student Handout: Presentation Guidelines

Your group is tasked with creating a presentation that responds to a prompt you select as a team. Use information from the case study handouts, your existing knowledge of biomes/science, and web research to create the content for your presentation.

Prompt 1 - Climate Change and River Systems: How do changes to freshwater ecosystems around the world contribute to climate change? What role do human actions play in these changes to freshwater ecosystems? How does this affect local communities (e.g. food, cultural traditions, mobility, etc.), and how do these communities respond? How does this compare to the way climate change is related to your local freshwater ecosystem?

Prompt 2 - Responding to Impacts on Freshwater Systems: What are some of the actions taken to deal with the impact of climate change in the Amazon and Mekong river basins and the people that live nearby? Are there similarities or differences? How does peoples' knowledge of the freshwater ecosystems direct their actions? How might "lessons learned" from the Amazon or Mekong be useful for your own community when adapting to climate change?

Prompt 3 - Multifaceted Understanding of Climate Change: Science and technology are helpful in understanding changes to climate and weather. How can community-based knowledge work with science and technology to more fully understand climate change? How do the perspectives of various community members in these cases help us more fully understand climate change and how to respond?

The following are some suggestions to help you create your presentation. Feel free to discuss alternative ideas and presentation requirements with your teacher. The best presentations are those that are informative and engaging for the audience- be creative and have fun!

- The first step in a presentation is always to think about "what's the point"? Decide on 2-3 takeaways for the audience and then present content that will help you get your message across

- .Give your presentation a clear structure. Begin by stating the purpose of your talk and what you want the audience to take away. Then include content that helps address the topic you introduced at the beginning. Finish off with a strong conclusion and "takeaway" message.

- Find a way to engage with your audience. What questions can you ask your audience that will get them "hooked" at the beginning of your presentation? Can you do a short in-class, "hands up" survey to poll your audience's perspective on the issue? Think about times that you have been interested in a presentation and what tools the speaker used to keep your attention.

- Use software like Microsoft PowerPoint, GoogleSlides, or Prezi to guide your presentation. These tools allow you to display key points, facts, and images to help you respond to the prompt. If you do not have access to a computer, or would prefer to do a tech-free presentation, consider printing out images, writing/drawing on the board, playing a game, or distributing handouts.

  - Keep in mind these general presentation tips:

  - Be prepared with speaking notes, but do not read off a script.

  - Use hand gestures to emphasize your points.

Look your audience in the eye - it helps keep people engaged.