

Final Project – Teacher’s Guide

A Hudson River Plume Activity

At the culmination of the Hudson River Plume Adventure, students can create a final project that incorporates the information they have learned with actions they and their friends can take to protect the watershed and the ocean.

The final project can take a variety of different forms including a brochure, information packet, video, children’s book, diorama, informational poster, cartoon strip or traditional essay

Their project should explain how human activities in their watershed affect water quality in the river and ultimately the ocean. It should also address what happens when river water meets the ocean and the impact this has on the marine environment (possibly creating the conditions for eutrophication to occur: delineating the steps and its consequences).

These brochures, etc. can be disseminated to other students in the school or broader community in order to provide students with a more authentic audience for their explanations and motivation to do a good job.

The following rubric can be used as a general guide to evaluate the final project.

| | Outstanding | Very Good | Good | Needs work |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| Organization | Logical format Easy to follow Smooth transitions | Format shows signs of thoughtful organization. Most ideas are easy to follow. Most transitions are smooth. | Format is somewhat organized. Some ideas are confusing. Few smooth transitions. | Format is disorganized. Ideas are difficult to follow. Lacking transitions. |
| Content | Explanation is complete and concise. All data is accurate. Data selected supports the objective of the project. | Explanation is complete. Data is accurate. Most data supports the objective of the project. | Explanation is nearly complete. Data contains one or two errors. Extraneous data is included. | Explanation is lacking significant details. Data contains more than two errors. Not enough data is included to support explanation. |
| Creativity | Unique presentation enhances project. Clever idea. | Mostly unique presentation. Thoughtfully presented. | Traces of originality are present. | Lacks originality. Routine presentation. |
| Visuals Selected | Greatly enhance understanding | Enhance understanding | Somewhat enhance understanding | Do not enhance understanding |

