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Renewable Energy

Introduction

Hello students!

For your next project you will be creating an informal video about renewable energy in the United States. Before doing this, you will research the different types of renewable energies that the U.S. utilizes, the locations of sites of renewable energy, and which (if any) energy companies in your area use renewable energy and if so what kind.

We all use energy every minute of every day. This can take a toll on not only our pocketbooks, but the environment as well. Renewable energy is a way to cut back on the fossil fuels that pollute our air and are becoming depleted. By using resources that can be replenished, such as sunlight and wind, we can improve our carbon footprint and make the world a better place.



Contents

Task	p. 2
Process	p. 3
Resources	p. 4
Evaluation	p. 5
Conclusion	p. 6

Task

Your task will be to create an informational video about renewable energy in the United States based on your research of the following:

- renewable energy the United States utilizes**
- where renewable energy sites are found**
- which (if any) energy companies in your area use renewable energy and if so what kind**

You will be divided into groups of 3. Each student in the group will choose one of these areas to research.



Process

In order to complete your task, you will need to follow a series of steps.



Individual Process:

- 1.) Each person in your group will select one of the following areas to research:
 - renewable energies the U.S. utilizes
 - where sites of renewable energies are located
 - which (if any) energy companies in your area use renewable energies and if so what kind
- 2.) Be sure to check out the *Resources* page to help you out with your research.
- 3.) As you do your individual research, think about how you can incorporate what you learn into your group's informational video.

Collaborative Process:

- 1.) Once you have finished researching your individual area, you will share your findings with the other two members in your group.
- 2.) As a group, brainstorm ways to incorporate all 3 areas into an informational video about renewable energy.
- 3.) Your group will create the 1st draft of your video's script and storyboard and begin to organize how to present your information.
- 4.) Your group will turn in your 1st draft and receive feedback. In your group, you will then edit and revise your draft accordingly.
- 5.) Your group will decide how to make the video.
 - Do you want to record scenes? Do you want to do a voice-over in front of pictures?
 - The format of your video is up to your group to decide. Be creative!
- 6.) Your group will create your informational video and revise/edit it until it is ready to be presented to the class.

Resources

Below are some resources to help you get started on your research. You are not limited to these resources. In fact, you are encouraged to find your own, as long as they are credible sources.

WEBSITES

http://nationalatlas.gov/articles/people/a_energy.html

<http://www.eia.gov/renewable/>

<http://energy.gov/science-innovation/energy-sources>

http://www.nrel.gov/renewable_resources/

<http://www.nrdc.org/energy/renewables/energymap.asp>

YOUTUBE VIDEO

“U.S. Renewable Energy Facilities”

www.youtube.com/watch?v=NndD_YrV7Kg

OTHER

Simply go to Google Images and search “U.S. renewable energy map” for great visuals.

Evaluation

<u>Category</u>	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Sufficient</u>	<u>Requires Work</u>
Individual Points	Student thoroughly researched their selected area to the best of their ability. Research is in-depth, easy to understand, and organized. All sources are properly cited. (20 points)	Student researched their selected area well. Research is in-depth, understandable, and generally organized. Most sources are properly cited. (19-15 points)	Student researched their selected area at an average level. Research is enough to get by, understandable, and sometimes organized. Only some sources are properly cited. (15-11 points)	Needs work. Student did not thoroughly research their selected area. Research is not in-depth, understandable, or organized. Few or no sources are cited. (<10 points)
Group Video-Creativity (Visuals and Audio)	The group video is very creative and uses visuals and audio in an effective way. (10 points)	The group video is above average in creativity and uses visuals and audio in an effective way the majority of the time. (9-8 points)	The group video is average in creativity and sometimes uses visuals and audio in an effective way. (7-6 points)	Needs work. The group video is below average in creativity, and visuals and audio are not used effectively. (<6 points)
Group Video-Organization	The group video is organized in a way that portrays information effectively. (10 points)	The group video is relatively organized and gets information across in an understandable way. (9-8 points)	The group video is slightly organized and portrays information in a way that is not always easy to understand. (7-6 points)	Needs work. The group video is not organized and does not portray information effectively. (<6 points)
Group Video-Research and Information	Each group member's research is represented in the video and all information is based on facts. (20 points)	Each group member's research is represented in the video and most information is based on facts. (19-15 points)	Only some group member's research is represented in the video and only some information is based on facts. (15-10 points)	Needs work. The group video lacks research from all group members and little (if any) information is based on facts. (<10 points)

TOTAL: 60 Points

Conclusion

You've learned a great deal about renewable energy in the United States up to this point. You've researched the types of renewable energy the U.S. utilizes, the locations of renewable energy sites, and what kinds of renewable energy (if any) are used by energy companies in your area. You've not only become expert researchers, but you've also learned how to apply that knowledge into a project of your own. Through your individual research and group collaboration, you have created a well-researched informational video that brings renewable energy into a positive focus.

Here are some additional questions to consider:

- Your final product: While researching, how did you decide whether a website was a reputable source or not?
- The overall process: During the process, from researching to collaborating with your group members, what was the most challenging part of this project? How did you work through this challenge? What part of your project are you particularly proud of? How did your group collaborate with one another? In the future, how could you have worked to make your individual or collaboration process a more productive experience?

Thank you for all of your hard work!



By Mollie Ullestad,
Geographic Alliance of Iowa