Drawing on the propositions generated from the readings and class discussions, this paper explores one research question. The paper should draw on class readings but should require no additional “research”. The aim of the paper is to develop a coherent argument about sources, causes or cures to social injustice as they relate to questions of or approaches to conserving nature.

As with the propositional statements, you need to be as explicit as possible regarding who or what is causing what. As for content, again strive to include the following components:

i. causal relations;
ii. clearly designated actors
iii. factors affecting human behavior and/or ecological patterns; and
iv. environmental or social effects

The primary goal is to construct and sustain a sound argument that is logically unassailable and empirically convincing. The objective is not to be “right”, but to be exploratory, creative, logical, synthetic, and stimulating.

An integral component of good writing is the process of feedback and revision. Therefore, you will submit short pre-draft assignments and a near final draft for feedback before turning in a final product, as follows.

Extended Proposition 1
Two paragraphs, due 27 April
Choose a propositional statement you have written on a subject in which you are interested. Make sure the statement is well crafted and sound. Consider what additional statements or evidence are needed to support the proposition and make a convincing argument. At this stage, supporting statements should be on the same level as the propositional statement. In other words, you are linking a series of propositional statements into a larger argument for this assignment.

Extended Proposition 2
Two pages, due 4 May
At this stage, you will be expanding and supporting your sub-propositions or sub-arguments. Determine what statements and pieces of evidence are needed to support the various arguments you have developed in support of your main argument. One strategy is to use the various statements from Extended Proposition 1 as paragraph topic sentences, and then develop each statement/argument in a paragraph.

Draft of Propositional Paper for Review
5-8 pages, due 11 May
This should be a very near final draft of your paper. For the final version, simply extend the process used for Extended Proposition 2. At this stage, you need to refine your argument and start citing corroborating evidence from your readings. You will need to relate readings to each other and find supporting evidence from what may on the surface be unrelated articles. You must bring two copies – one for me and one for a peer reviewer. Reviewers must return papers with suggested revisions by Tuesday 16 May.

Final Draft of Propositional Paper
5-8 pages, due 11 May
Just what it says – this is the final version to be graded. You should incorporate feedback from your earlier draft to improve your paper. Be sure to properly cite all references.

Propositional papers should be 5-8 double-spaced pages in length (exclusive of bibliography), with 11-12 point font and 1-inch margins. Final versions may be turned in single-spaced, but early drafts (one for me and one for a peer reviewer) should be printed double-spaced to allow for proofing marks. I prefer that you print your papers double-sided to save paper.