

Last year, I completed projects in ENGL 131 and ENVR 243 on climate change inequity from a variety of perspectives, and was fortunate to receive a Library Research Award for the former. Dr. Pittman's HONORS class on Western Civilization and public policy gave me the perfect opportunity to continue exploring the social justice dimension of climate change through a literature review, since the climate crisis is an issue that is perfectly differentiated across the "West", or the developed world, and the "Rest", or the developing.

I have been fortunate to have instructors in these courses who conveyed clearly the conventions of writing for their field. In this case, I learnt how to go about synthesizing information in a form befitting the social sciences, specifically sociology. In addition, the Undergraduate Researcher Tutorial on the UW Libraries website taught me details about research logistics, including finding the right database, using search terms, and using the in-built citation generator.

Since I often engage with discussions on the injustice inherent in the climate crisis, I first came up with some guiding questions for my essay. These were my guide in the framing of an introduction with a complex claim - which provided context for why this topic was important, and a roadmap to how I was going to defend my claims. When I presented this to Dr. Pittman, she advised me to have an overarching theme, and provided me with a resource for that - Stuart Hall's essay on "The West and the Rest". Since my claims centered on distinguishing between nations who are propagators of climate change and those who are victims, defining these categories as dynamic and behavioral rather than regional was crucial to my thesis.

Next came the collection of resources. For my first claim, I already had in mind the tremendously influential *Nature* article "Global mismatch between greenhouse gas emissions and the burden of climate change", and therefore searched it up on the UW Libraries Search Website.

I found the section that most interested me, and went through the references cited in that section to find supporting and corroborating information. These papers also introduced me to terms like ‘vulnerability’ and ‘resilience’ that are keywords in the field - using these terms under Subject Terms as part of an Academic Search Complete query provided me with credible sources of definitions and examples to explain concepts important to understanding my points.

For my second claim, I needed to make use of the AND function of the same database to find an overlap between the broad themes of ‘climate change’ and ‘colonialism’. The result was a number of papers on resource exploitation, both past and present. While I had planned to focus on the historical impact of colonialism in widening climate change inequalities, these sources compelled me to explore more modern examples. One such example that caught my attention was lithium extraction from Latin America; however, I was hard-pressed to find updated information on this from papers since those take time to get through peer review. Therefore I turned to some press articles on university websites that were easily accessible through UW Libraries, which provided succinct descriptions of this case study.

The third part of my literature review demanded more of my research skills, as my claim for this part was vaguely defined when I began my research. Searching for “climate” and “injustice” eventually brought me to an excellent piece “Climate Imperialism in the Twenty-First Century”, that provided me with the terms I was missing - “climate imperialism”. Though there is not an overwhelming amount of literature on this topic, I was able to comb the database with updated keywords for a good number of reputable sources, and used the Interlibrary Loan & Scanning Services to obtain PDFs of papers that were not immediately available through the Libraries website.

I imported my sources into the Mendeley Reference Manager, and constructed a bibliography using the citation tool on the libraries website, with annotations reminding me about the purpose of every reference. This ensured I had all my bases covered, and also compelled me to critically evaluate the credibility of the sources using the 5Ws test. I felt comfortable drawing on academic papers from peer-reviewed journals for the most part, though I checked the credentials of the authors as well. The two popular press articles I incorporated were produced by reputable university presses, by experts in the field. Since these issues have been discussed for a long time, I considered sources from different times in the last two decades and tried to convey a sense of how our understanding of these topics has progressed by discussing sources roughly chronologically within each section of the paper. Accuracy was established by cross-referencing sources, and while eliminating bias is a fool's errand, I tried to maintain objectivity by considering the social context of data and results while discussing papers as part of a literature review.

During reviews of the paper, assisted by Dr. Pittman, I revised my original thesis statement to better reflect the final contents, and added leading sentences that better demarcated the different sections. For my conclusion I turned to a different kind of source - an article published by the International Monetary Fund containing recommendations for addressing some of the challenges I had outlined in the paper. This served to reflect how bodies that have the capability to produce change are interacting with the issues of social justice in climate change, and possible evidence that the issue is not just an academic one.

I feel that the most important new skills I picked up while writing this paper were using a reference manager, obtaining papers through the Interlibrary Loan, and using chronology to organize sources - all of which greatly improved my speed and efficiency during the actual

writing process. In addition, the breadth and depth of my research helped me stay informed of the active work in this field, which is very helpful as I continue to study climate change in future courses, as well as in my career.