ENERGY PROJECT

Climate change is the over-arching concept for the IDS course sequence. In keeping with this concept, your project assignment is to track your energy use for a week [THIS IS THE “BEFORE” PART], and then make a change in your consumption [THIS IS THE “AFTER” PART]. You may track energy use directly, or as the energy necessary to make the materials you use and dispose of every day. You will put your findings in POSTER format, like you did last quarter, and will present your poster to your fellow students and instructors.

TOPIC CHOICES:
Choose one of the topics listed to investigate your impact on the environment:

#1 Your Gas and Electric energy use (home and vehicle)
#2 Your Plastic and Glass use
#3 Your Paper and Metal use

Choice #1: record your actual gas and electric energy use for a week.
Choices #2 and #3: keep track of all plastic and glass or paper and metal that you dispose of (either throw into the trash or recycle) for a week.

Part 1. (THE BEFORE PART):
A) Predict how much energy you use in the category you pick every week and write up a list of the top five activities or products that you think will result the highest total energy use over the week.

B) Measure and record your actual use over the course of a week. Describe your measurement techniques in detail, and record your measurements in a data table. This part will last for a week (7 days).

Part 2 (THE AFTER PART): Predict at least 3 ways that you might reduce your energy consumption and then test your predictions by changing your activities for the next week. For example, see how much energy you save if you recycle for a week (7 days), or if you conserve the resource for a week. Measure how much you recycle or conserve, and record your measurements in a data table.

Part 3: Reflect on your findings.
1) Using your data, expand (in time) the amount of energy or materials you would use in 52 weeks (1 year) at your current rate of use.

2) Using your data, expand (in numbers) the amount of energy or materials that would be used by the total population of the U.S. if all people used these resources at your current rate of use. Discuss how well your measurement reflect reality. In other words,
whether or not the data you collected is typical for you and whether you think it is typical of the average American.

3) Using your data, expand (in numbers) the amount of energy or materials that could be saved by the total population of the U.S. if all people conserved these resources at the rate you did in the second part of your trial. Discuss how well your measurement reflect reality. If you did not measure a change in your energy consumption discuss what methods could have been used to reduce the energy you used during this study.

Detailed information about what you need to include in your poster will come soon. Now, choose one of the 3 topics and get it approved by your instructor:

MY TOPIC: ________________________________ INSTRUCTOR OK: _____