First Paper

- First Paper (25% of final grade)
  - due 15 Nov (Thurs before Thanksgiving) BUT can be completed well before due date!
  - 6 to 10 pages single spaced; must include references & can include figures, both of which are excluded from the page count
  - expands upon the topic of any class meeting, other than class meeting you have or will lead, or explores some other topic related to class

- Various stages for first paper:
  - Thurs, 20 Sept: description of paper due
  - https://umd.instructure.com/courses/1249026/quizzes/1246871

- We are looking for a modest amount of independent research outside of the required readings rather than a summary of the required readings
  - Paper should include citations: can consult http://lib.guides.umd.edu/citationtools for info on various citation managers
  - Websites can be cited by either placing URL into reference list with an appropriate descriptive label: i.e. EPA, 2016: https://www.epa.gov/criteria-air-pollutants/naaqs-table or by using footnotes
  - Primary sources should be articles in magazines such as Scientific American or Natural Geographic, journal articles, government reports, or book chapters
First Paper

• Please provide a brief description of your paper, including:
  a) the topic
  b) which reading or readings will serve as the starting point for the paper
  c) how you will expand upon the reading material (i.e., critical analysis of the reading; or, connecting multiple readings; or, relating a reading to the overall objectives of the class)
  d) any other source material that you envision using

• If your paper is submitted by Thurs, 6 Nov, you will be guaranteed to get instructor feedback prior to the final deadline on Thurs, 20 Nov

• Here, you are asked to simply describe what you intend to write about … you are not being asked to actually write the paper

• While you may change topic after completion of this essay, please speak with Ross or Laura if you intend to change topic
Great Resource