**Subject area/course**: Science/Environmental Science

**Grade level/band**: 10–12

**Task source**: Summit Public Schools

**Personal Impact Project**

**STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS**

1. **Task context**:

Imagine yourself seeking a new career as an environmental engineer in the year 2030. You have wanted to work at jobs similar to the ones offered at the EPA for some time now, when you saw the description below:

"*Earth Day is every day at the EPA! Come help us protect the environment! Our diverse workforce connects to more than just a career-we share a common passion to promote a cleaner, healthier environment, while balancing the needs of our Earth's growing population. Discover how exciting safeguarding our natural resources and protecting human health can be! We consistently rank as one of the top Federal agencies in which to work."*

Your challenge lies in convincing the EPA to hire you by submitting a paper about your impact on the environment and giving a multimedia presentation that explains how humans impact their world and what they can do to mitigate the effects to their environment.

This Personal Impact Project is meant to synthesize everything you have learned from the first part of the year in a meaningful and action-oriented way. It includes various actions to be taken to complete the final projects. This includes examining your own impact on the environment and brainstorming possible solutions to minimize the impact (hypothesizing), collecting data on how your personal actions impact the environment, researching and interpreting the data you collected (interpreting data/info), and writing a paper, grounded in research, in which you analyze the impact of your actions on the environment (introduction and conclusion, explanation of evidence, precision). You will receive peer/teacher feedback and complete a final draft of your personal impact paper. Finally, you will need to create a presentation (multimedia in written production) using an online tool to convey your ideas from the personal impact paper. This project will allow you to quantitatively examine the environmental difference that personal actions can make, put the concept of sustainability to practice, and gain experience in data collection and management.

1. **Final product**:

Write a paper, grounded in research, in which you analyze the impact of your actions on the environment. Design and give a multimedia presentation to your classmates on how your actions affected the environment and how you might mitigate their effects.

**Additional Information**

1. **Knowledge and skills you will need to demonstrate on this task:**

The task will require students to conduct a review of science information and synthesize information. The students will be able to collect data, research and interpret the data collected, and write a paper grounded in research.

1. **Materials needed:**

Your instructor will provide you with copies of the following materials:

1. Ecological Footprint Calculator handout
2. Making Calculations – A Guide to Starting Your Calculations handout
3. Task Card: Research
4. Task Card: Research, Background, and Procedures
5. Research Graphic Organizer
6. Peer Feedback Checklist
7. Slide Show Checklist
8. Presentation Feedback Form
9. **Time requirements:**

This task is an on-going project completed over approximately a 6-week period. Your instructor may provide you with a Personal Impact Student Calendar modified to fit your class schedule.

1. **Scoring:**

Your work will be scored using the Personal Impact Project rubric. You should make sure you are familiar with the language that describes the expectations for proficient performance.