

Subject: Last class format and requirements: group slides due Mon, 4/27, 2 pm; individual writing due Wed, 4/29, 2 pm.

[See summary list with due dates at the end of this email.]

Dear EPS/ESE 101 global warming scientists/ friends,

We are writing regarding the form of our last class, April 29, 2026. The theme: Using climate science in setting climate policy.

Your assignments:

(1) Individual assignment: Read the court decision in the case of NJ against the oil companies (<https://courses.seas.harvard.edu/climate/eli/Courses/EPS101/Sources/Last-class/option-4-NJ-against-oil-companies/>):

- The court decision,
- API response introduction and conclusions,
- BP response introduction and conclusions
- Selected parts you choose from the NJ complaint to answer the questions below.

Write a 1-page (single-spaced, 12 pt) advice to your **state attorney general**, based on your reading of **the entire document**:

(A) Provide three specific examples of observations and projections of climate change covered in class to help them understand the NJ complaint. Address how these examples should be used to set specific policy goals.

(B) Explain and justify how satisfied you are with the level of specificity and accuracy in the document, with two examples of recommendations that are satisfactorily specific and accurate and two that you find too vague or incorrect.

(C) Provide your opinion on how your AG should consider the scientific accuracy of climate change claims when dealing with climate change litigation.

This writing assignment is meant to get you to think about the issue before the class meeting. There are no wrong answers as long as your response is thoughtful, well-investigated, and well-reasoned. During class, we will discuss this, and hopefully, additional points of view will come up and allow all of us to refine our views. **Submit via Gradescope by the day of the last class, 2 pm.**

(2) Group assignment: Each group will be assigned a few short sections from this court case for further analysis. Prepare **three carefully reasoned slides** using a **large font, at least one and no more than two relevant images/graphics, and no more than ~50 words per slide**. See the [example slide](#). The first slide should show your full names and group number.

Two slides to address the scientific claims in your assigned parts of the document; address: **(A) Title:** “Motivating observations.” What specific actual observations of climate change or climate change projections could be used to motivate the specified policy actions? **(B) Title:** “Scientific Claims.” Are any scientific claims about climate change made or implied, and are they correct?

One slide regarding your assigned legal parts of the document; address: **Title:** “Legal Analysis.” (C) Explain the claim and express your reasoned opinion.

During class, we will examine the slides and discuss the best way for policymakers to use climate (and other) science. Be prepared to explain your detailed and reasoned opinion regarding your assigned sections. To research these issues, use the [IPCC AR6 2021 report](#), as well as other sources, as needed. The TFs will email your assigned sections shortly. **Make sure your names are noted on each of your slides. You need to submit your slides via Gradescope by Monday, 4 pm, two days before class**, to allow us to provide feedback on the slides and allow you to revise them if needed.

Presentation guidelines for Class:

- (A) One person in the group summarizes the science-related sections in 30 seconds (!).
- (B) Slides A and B are presented.
- (C) Another person summarizes the legal-related sections in 30 seconds.
- (D) Slide C is presented.

Each of the three slides should be presented by two people from the group, switching midway. The total presentation time per slide is 1 minute.

Please ensure all group members participate in the presentation. Practice your presentation to deliver your slides according to these time limits to leave time for discussion after each presentation.

We will ask each group to stand in front of the classroom during the presentation, and Eli will switch between the slides on his computer.

To recap:

- Wed 4/22: Class on Forest Fires. The Sea ice notebook & essay are due.
- **Monday, 4/27, 2 pm: group slides for the last class on climate policy group are due.**
- **Wed 4/29: Individual write-ups on climate policy are due at 2 pm, before class.** Discuss climate policy readings in class.
- Monday, May 4: The Forest Fires notebook & essay are due at 2 pm.
- Extra credit final essay: due Thursday, May 7, 2 pm. To be announced soon.

All the best, Andrea, Jacob, and Eli.