Students for Sustainable Water

Story Guidance Document

Global Water Crisis: Communities in all corners of the globe lack sustainable water supplies and face water-related hazards. This global water crisis will be amplified by climate change. The current generation of students will face unprecedented societal challenges. Achieving sustainable water supplies is a critical first step toward climate change adaption and security.

Our Solution: We believe every community has engaged groups of students that want to learn and share their experience with peers around the world. Through education and engagement, S^2H_2O encourages students to champion sustainable solutions for their communities. S^2H_2O creates a network and community of students and educators that share stories about their local water supply challenges and solutions under climate change.

Guiding Principles for S^2H_2O Stories

- **Be Creative and Concise –** multimedia stories are encouraged, and should be engaging, memorable, informative, fun, and concise (no more than 5 to 10 minutes).
- **Think Local –** describe a local issue(s) about climate change and water resources or hazards.
- **Compare –** what do your local issues have in common with other regions of the world?
- **Contrast –** what is unique and interesting about your local issues that you want to share with the world?
- **Engage –** ask an adult (e.g., educator, teacher, professor, parent/guardian) for help. All stories must be reviewed and submitted by a supervising adult.
- **Intended Audience –** middle school (5^{th} to 8^{th} grade), high school, junior college, or university level.
- **Public Content –** because these stories will be shared on a public platform, refrain from using students' names and other identifying information.

How to Create a Multimedia Story

There are a variety of software and platforms to create your story. S^2H_2O encourages any software or platform that is easy to use and readily available, without creating a barrier for students to tell their story. For example, the story can be created on a video, slideshow, storyboard, or word processing. Please keep in mind that your story must be created on an electronic file or public website that can be shared via a hyperlink on the Students for Sustainable Water (S^2H_2O) website.

Here are some example software and platforms:

- Google Docs or Slides
- Microsoft Word or PowerPoint
    - This short video explains how to create a narrated PowerPoint video.
- StoryMaps (from ArcGIS or other free software)
- YouTube or TikTok
- A Google search will reveal dozens of free software to create a story, video, narrated slideshow or storyboard.

- If you have questions about an appropriate software or platform, please ask us via our Contact page.

Example Story Template

The following are example elements to consider including in your story. Not all elements listed here will be relevant to your story and you may have other ideas not listed here.

1. Introduction
    a. Where you live
    b. Describe your current climate
    c. Explain where your water supply comes from
    d. Describe something unique about the environment of your hometown that students in other parts of the world would find interesting.
2. How will climate change impact your:
    a. Climate or weather
    b. Water supply or water quality
    c. Natural hazards (e.g., flooding, drought, wildfire, etc.)
    d. Issues surrounding environmental justice, such as access to drinking water, food, shelter, and health?
    e. Have you observed any impacts yet?
3. What are water managers, scientists, policy makers doing to protect your water supply against climate change?
4. What can students (or adults) in your community do to make your water supply more sustainable and adapt to climate change?

How to Share and Submit Your Story

Please keep in mind that your story must be created on an electronic file or public website that can be shared via a hyperlink on the Students for Sustainable Water (S^2H_2O) website.

When your story is finished and ready to be shared on our S^2H_2O website, please send us a message on our Contact page: Contact – Students for Sustainable Water (s2h2o.org)

- We prefer that messages are sent by the supervising adult (educator or parent/guardian).
- In your message, please provide some information about your school or class.
- Please provide your email because we will send you a link to a secure file sharing site where you can upload your file.
- If you created a story on a public website, please send us the URL in your message.
- We will review all stories for appropriate content.
- We will send a confirmation email before uploading your story to the S^2H_2O website.
- All shared stories will be available from the S^2H_2O website, Global Network page: Global Network – Students for Sustainable Water (s2h2o.org)

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Tips for Educators: Assigning a S^2H_2O Story for your Class

There are many ways to assign and integrate S^2H_2O Stories into your existing curriculum. Here are a few ideas:

- After a local or national event, ask your students to create a S^2H_2O Story as a homework, in-class, or extra credit assignment.
    - Events might be covered in the press, and include natural disasters (e.g., flood, drought, pollution, wildfire, etc), new local water resources management actions or projects (e.g., reservoir project, seawater intrusion prevention, drinking water treatment, water supply for agriculture, etc), or new scientific paper about water resources and climate change.
- After a lecture, laboratory, or in-class exercise, ask your students to create a S^2H_2O Story to help reinforce concepts or research new concepts. The S^2H_2O Story could be assigned as an additional in-class exercise or homework assignment.
- Ask your students to create a S^2H_2O Story as an end-of-section or end-of-term project.
- Ask your students to engage with the S^2H_2O Stories and convey to their peers what they find most interesting and inspiring.
- S^2H_2O Stories can be completed as individual students or small-group assignments.
- S^2H_2O Stories are great for students learning and practicing oral and written communication and research.