	4 (Exceptional)	3 (Above Expectations)	2 (Satisfactory)	1 (Below Expectations)
Cover Page	Cover Page includes Student Name, Name of School, Month and Year.	Cover page is missing one item	Cover Page is missing two items	Cover page is missing three of the required pieces
Introduction	Introduction includes an overview of the project and introduces the topic in a unique or creative way	Introduction includes an overview of the project and introduces the topic in a logical or straight forward manner.	Introduction includes some information about the project , but does not clearly present the topic of the essay.	Introduction is not clear and/or is missing project information. It does not lead into the paragraphs that follow.
Organization	Excellent organization. Logical order of paragraphs and subtle transitions within and between paragraphs.	Good organization. Logical order of ideas. Ideas flow smoothly, transition between paragraphs is obvious.	Some organization is apparent, but ideas may not follow logically from one to the next. Little transition between paragraphs.	Organization is inconsistent and/or confusing. Ideas do not logically flow from one to the next. Transition is not evident.
Content (body)	The project is explained in detail and includes all of the following information: the environmental benefit of the project, the number of Marylanders served by the project, whether the project is a one time occurrence or an ongoing practice (for continual improvement), and whether the applicant played a leadership role or participant role in the project. Examples and details are explained in a sophisticated and/or creative manner.	The environmental project is explained and includes the following information: the environmental benefit of the project, the number of Marylanders served by the project, whether the project is a one time occurrence or an ongoing practice (for continual improvement), and whether the applicant played a leadership role or participant role in the project. Examples and details of the project are explained , but may lack details.	The environmental project is explained, but one or more of the required questions has not been answered.	The project is not clear nor does it use enough supporting detail. Some or all of the required questions has not been answered.
Conclusion	Conclusion is unique/creative in the way it summarizes and/or ties up the ideas presented in the essay.	Conclusion clearly summarizes the main ideas in the essay.	Conclusion attempts to summarize and/or wrap up ideas in the essay, but does not include enough details to conclude.	Conclusion is missing or confusing. Does not tie up the essay.
Conventions/ Mechanics	Few errors, if any, are present in grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation, but errors that are present do not interfere with meaning.	A few minor errors may be present in grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation, but they do not interfere with the communication of the essay.	Several errors may be present in grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation, and some of those errors interfere with meaning.	Many errors are present in grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation, and many of those errors interfere with meaning.
Format	Essay uses all of the formatting guidelines.	Essay failed to follow one of the formatting guidelines.	Essay failed to follow two of the formatting guidelines.	Essay failed to follow three or more of the formatting guidelines.
Project Substance	The environmental Project was complex in nature and required research and planning on the part of the student.	The environmental project was complex in nature but only required participation and some planning by the student	The environmental project was simple in nature, and only required a small amount of research and planning on the part of the student	The environmental project was simple in nature and only required participation on the part of the student.