



# Ecotopia!

What is our ideal community  
and how do we create it?

In this project, you will be creating your own eco-friendly utopia, or "ecotopia"! By investigating how ecosystems and societies thrive and fail, you will compete with other groups to create the most successful community! In addition, we will reflect on how to make a daily, positive impact, both environmentally and socially.

## Products:

- A detailed model of a utopian community that is environmentally and socially sustainable
- A research journal and class presentation
- A stop-action short video about an aspect of an ecosystem (Visual Arts)
- A school-wide advertising campaign to convince students to move to your community



## Skills:

By the end of this project, you will be able to:

- Explore why various societies--past & present--fail or thrive, and create your own successful community with this information
- Investigate the interconnectedness of ecosystems, how populations are affected by change, and examine systems for maintaining biodiversity
- Create your own stop-motion video
- Use the novel *Wonder* to think critically about characters & themes, and apply those themes to your everyday lives
- Evaluate how advertisers reach their audience, actively and subliminally, and create your own effective advertisements



## Exhibition:

Students will present their utopian communities on November 16:

\*The name is "borrowed" from *Ecotopia*, a book by Ernest Callenbach

## Ecotopia Rubric - Humanities

<u>0</u> Not present	<u>1</u> Shows little to no quality/clarity	<u>2</u> Shows <i>some</i> quality/clarity, but overall rushed	<u>3</u> For the most part shows quality/clarity	<u>4</u> Shows good quality/clarity <sup>°</sup>	<u>5</u> <i>Goes above &amp; beyond</i>
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<b>Politics: Is your system of government clearly outlined in a constitution?</b>					
Power of leaders & courts; how laws are made; how leaders are chosen/voted in	1	2	3	4	5
Most important laws (10+), with some incorporation of your ecosystem (a specific water law for desert, for example)	1	2	3	4	5
Rights of the people (10+)	1	2	3	4	5
Overall Look/Quality of Constitution	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Politics Total (out of 20): _____</b>					

<b>Economics: Is your economic system clearly outlined?</b>					
Imports & Exports Graph	1	2	3	4	5
Spending Pie Graph & Paragraph* Explanation	1	2	3	4	5
Currency	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Economics Total (out of 15): _____</b>					

<sup>°</sup> Clarity also encompasses understanding of the concept

\*Paragraph explanation is a 5-7+ sentence paragraph describing why you made the choices you did for that particular component of your utopia. For example, why you chose to make those spending choices, those colors on the flag (what they mean), and why that motto was important.

<b>Health, Education &amp; Recreation Pamphlet:</b>					
Overview of Education System	1	2	3	4	5
Overview of Parks & Recreation	1	2	3	4	5
5+ great sights to see/experience (might be statues, foods, plazas, playground)	1	2	3	4	5
Overview of Health Care System	1	2	3	4	5
Overall Look/Quality of Pamphlet	1	2	3	4	5
<b>H.E.R. Total (out of 25): _____</b>					

<b>Geography/Map: What does your utopia look like?</b>					
Sustainable Energy & Recycling Systems Shown	1	2	3	4	5
Transportation System Shown	1	2	3	4	5
Parks & Other Important Buildings Shown	1	2	3	4	5
Residential/Commercial/Industrial Areas Shown	1	2	3	4	5
Overall Look/Quality of Map	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Geography Total (out of 25): _____</b>					

<b>Symbols: What are the symbols that represent your ecotopia?</b>					
Flag & Paragraph* Explanation on back (or attached)	1	2	3	4	5
Motto & Paragraph* Explanation on back (or attached)	1	2	3	4	5
Anthem	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Symbols Total (out of 15): _____</b>					

<u>0</u> Not present	<u>1</u> Shows little to no quality/ clarity*	<u>2</u> Shows <i>some</i> quality/clarity, but overall rushed	<u>3</u> For the most part shows quality/clarity	<u>4</u> Shows good quality/clarity	<u>5</u> Goes <i>above</i> & <i>beyond</i>
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\*Clarity also includes *understanding* of the concept

<b>Individual Advertisement for Your Utopia</b>					
Visual Engagement (strong, clear, effective, <i>large</i> image; little to no white/wasted space; employs logos, pathos, and/or ethos)	1	2	3	4	5
Text (clear font; strong colors; short, effective message/punchline; possibly employs logos)	1	2	3	4	5
Satisfaction of a goal appropriate to 3-5th grade (security, enjoyment, excitement, adventure, independence, discipline)	1	2	3	4	5
Spelling/Grammar	1	2	3	4	5
Overall Effort/Quality	1	2	3	4	5
Ad Total (out of 25): _____					

<b>Individual Reflection</b>					
Page Length = 1+ Page	1	2	3	4	5
Overall Effort	1	2	3	4	5
Details, thoughtfulness & thoroughness (shows in detail why you made the choices you did, and reflects on the learning process and ways to improve)	1	2	3	4	5
Spelling/Grammar/Vocabulary	1	2	3	4	5
Proper Paragraphs & Sentences	1	2	3	4	5
Reflection Total (out of 25) _____					