

Background: There is a proposal to build the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline. This pipeline would transport oil from the Alberta Tar sands to a proposed port in Kitimat, B.C. At this port, oil tankers would be able to transport this oil internationally. This proposal has been controversial and is under consideration. There is a joint review panel for the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project that will consider all *letters of comment*.

The assignment: Research and evaluate this proposal. What are the ecological, economical, and cultural costs and benefits of this proposal? Your assignment is to write a letter of comment relevant to this debate. This letter is an assignment only. If you want to submit the letter to the review panel on your own, that is up to you. The intended audience of this letter is the joint review panel for the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project. You can support either side of this debate. Letters should be well-researched, well-argued, and well-written. Description of how these *letters of comment* are used and how they can be submitted:

<http://gatewaypanel.review-examen.gc.ca/clf-nsi/prtcptngprcss/ltrfcmmnt-eng.html>

Research: There is a lot of information on the www about this proposed pipeline. Be a careful consumer of information. Consider the source of the information. What data actually went into the statement? Try to find as scientific of information as possible. Evaluate the evidence: anybody can put something on the internet, reports have more weight, and peer-reviewed scientific papers have the most support. Some potentially good starting points include:

From Enbridge:

- See overview at: <http://www.northerngateway.ca/?gclid=CIDW04Cira4CFeQbQgodnxzFww>
- See technical assessments at: <http://www.northerngateway.ca/project-details/technical-data-review/>

From conservation groups:

- <http://skeenawild.org/conservation-issues/enbridge/>
- <http://www.pembina.org/pub/2289>

Writing: All writing needs to be original works by you. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. The best letters are concise, include specifics, and courteous. Aim for 2 pages, single spaced. General structure includes three major sections:

1. Introduction: Describe background and interest in the project. Why are you writing? What are your relevant personal experiences?
2. Main body of the letter: How would the proposed action impact you or others (or the ecosystem)? Be specific, providing relevant details or data to support your position.
3. Summary: Request action that you want. If possible, suggest alternatives.

Submission: Before class, March 6. Submit via email to Jon and Brennan as an attached pdf.