

Letters will be scored using the criteria indicated below. Refer to the assignment handout for an overview of the assignment and a description of expectations.

	<b>Below Standard/ Not Acceptable (0 points)</b>	<b>Meets Standard (3 points)</b>	<b>Exceeds Standard (5 points)</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Content</b>				
Human contributions to biodiversity loss.	Letter includes 0-1 factor	Letter includes 2-3 factors	Letter includes 4 or more factors	
Relationship among contributing factors	Not addressed	Includes general statement, but no examples	Includes general statement supported by an example	
Impacts on society	Significance to society of biodiversity loss not addressed	Presents a basic argument for the significance of biodiversity loss to society	Presents a thorough argument for the significance of biodiversity loss including impacts on biological resources, ecosystem services, and social and spiritual benefits	
<u>Causes</u> of current biological diversity losses compared to past mass extinctions	No comparison made	Basic comparison made, but lacking in detail	Comparison made including specific details regarding which causes varied	
<u>Rates</u> of current biological diversity losses compared to past mass extinctions	No comparison made	Basic comparison made, but lacking in detail, quantification	Comparison made including specific, quantitative details regarding how rates varied	
Recommendation for conservation priority	No recommendation made	Recommendation made, some information on reasons for choice and criteria used included	Recommendation made, thorough explanation of reasons for choice and criteria used included	
Writing	Disorganized letter that communicates issue of biodiversity loss, but lacks detail or contains major inaccuracies. 5+ grammatical errors.	Clear and organized letter that communicates issue of biodiversity loss, but is missing some detail or contains minor inaccuracies. 2-4 grammatical errors.	Well-crafted letter that eloquently communicates issue of biodiversity loss, its causes, impacts, and the board's recommendation to the public. 0-1 grammatical errors.	