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## Some Preliminary Steps to Initiate Climate & Public Health Research Relating to....

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### Goal:

The goal of the exercise for this class is to conduct research on how local, regional or global patterns in Earth's changing climate affect the incidence, prevalence or distribution of a selected public health concern. The effort, in the first instance, is to find out what research has been conducted on this subject area and to summarize what has been published in the scientific literature about the problem concerned. Further, you will need to highlight what new research would be most useful to undertake to advance the understanding or effectiveness of public health officials responsible for making or advising public policy to address this public health concern.

### Initial Steps:

- Follow the News: You can scan “news aggregators” like [Google News](#) or [Yahoo News](#) for general topic reference to recent news stories on a selected topic like “Cholera,” or “Dengue Fever” or “Bird Flu”  
You can search in a more focused manner the science journalism “news aggregators” in the same manner – [ScienceDaily](#).
- Trace Well Identified Authors/Researchers: You can look for known authorities in specific fields and trace down their most recent or historically important articles in [Google Scholar](#) to find their most useful references. – e.g. Paul Epstein, Anthony J. McMichael. This is particularly useful for people known to have written “Summary” or “Review” articles.
- Focus upon a Pattern of Geographic Incidence or Distribution of a Condition/Disease: You could use these general news aggregators to look at emerging patterns of disease in a specific area like the “Nile Delta,” or “Pakistan” or “desert environments”

The effort in each case should be to move beyond this first step **to locate recent literature in the peer-reviewed, scientific literature** and use this as the basis for your research paper.

Your research is to be presented in a **final paper of approximately 2,500 words** - compiled with appropriately sourced supporting notes – and submitted along with a **VoiceThread** summary of your findings and a geo-referenced “Google Earth” **.KMZ** reference locator pin. All work should be submitted in your “dropbox” by midnight (Cyprus time) on Wednesday, 3 July, with clear “Titles” for each component labeled, “NAME Final Paper,” “NAME VoiceThread Link” and “NAME KMZ file.”

**This should be fun AND useful for you – both in this course and well beyond.  
Good Luck!**