

WRITING & ORAL PRESENTATION PROMPTS

8th Grade Science
NCSCOS Goal 3: Hydrosphere

General topic ideas:

Algae	Non Point Source Pollution (NPS)
Automobile Pollution	NPS
Best Management Practice (BMP)	Nutrients
Buffers	Pet Waste
Car Washing	Point Source Pollution
Erosion	Stewardship/Personal responsibility
Estuaries	Storm Drainage System
Fertilizer/Pesticides	Stormwater Runoff
Habitat	Turbidity
Human Impacts	Water Quality
Litter	Watersheds/River Basins
Local Waterways (Cape Fear River, Intracoastal Waterway, Greenfield Lake, etc)	Wetlands

Prompts:

- Explore the water quality of the recreational hydrosphere we enjoy in Wilmington and New Hanover County.
- What are five things you could do in your neighborhood to improve stormwater runoff flowing into the Cape Fear River and Intracoastal Waterway.
- If I were a raindrop, my journey through Wilmington would be....
- The best lesson my grandparents or parents ever taught me about the environment is.....
- Imagine a friend of yours is about to throw a fast food container out the window. What would you tell that friend to persuade him or her not to do that? Why?
- In 20 years, the water quality of the Cape Fear River will.....
- If you were a fish, describe your life in the Cape Fear River or a Wilmington creek.
- How is stormwater runoff connected to the aquatic food web?
- Explain the importance of estuaries.
- Explain the importance of tidal creeks like Hewletts Creek or Bradley Creek.

- ❑ How does the temperature of runoff affect pond life?
- ❑ Describe a new way to monitor the water quality of a local creek.
- ❑ Describe how humans affect the water quality of Greenfield Lake and what they can do to change that.
- ❑ Describe the water quality of Greenfield Lake from a fish, turtle, or alligator's perspective.
- ❑ What impacts does poor water quality have on the local economy?
- ❑ Describe the quality of a creek if people in the nearby neighborhood did not pick up after their pets and threw litter on the ground constantly.
- ❑ Describe your role in helping to protect the creeks and streams in New Hanover County.
- ❑ Explain the importance of surface water to you and your family.
- ❑ Describe the impact of poor water quality on recreation.
- ❑ Compare the benefits and risks associated with using pesticides and fertilizers.
- ❑ Describe the watershed you live in, where it drains, and how you could help clean it up.
- ❑ Explain why polluted runoff is the #1 water quality problem in the North Carolina.
- ❑ Explain the effects of excess nutrients in North Carolina waters.
- ❑ In your opinion, explain the main water issues in Wilmington.
- ❑ How could we capture and re-use rainwater? For what purposes?
- ❑ Sedimentation in NC, what are we doing about it & how do our actions/standards compare to other states.
- ❑ How does local and/or state politics effect water quality? Is it positive or negative?
- ❑ The harmful effects of pet waste, who is responsible, and how can we change its effects? How do other communities deal with this problem?
- ❑ How litter in waterways affects humans, plants, animals, and the food chain.
- ❑ How stormwater runoff affects ecosystems over time, is it worse than one large toxic spill?
- ❑ Explore the effects of pollution caused by fertilizer and compare these effects from a rural farm and an urban setting.