

Shedd Aquarium Assignment

As you meander around the Shedd Aquarium, enjoying the exhibits and shows, consider the content, thoroughness, and impact of what you see. I want you to evaluate critically the Shedd's exhibits, shows, and mission, citing both positive and negative aspects (and if negative, what could be fixed?). You are wide open on this assignment, but here are some example questions to consider - you may choose any one or more of the following topics, modify any one or more of the following topics, or come up with your own topic):

1. Public museums and aquariums are meant to educate the public; does the Shedd do an adequate job, and what overall message are they getting across to the public about marine ecology or marine organisms?
2. All public institutions are currently going through major funding crises; in light of your experience today, do you think the Shedd is using its limited financial resources adequately to get their message across to the public? What are they doing that is positive, and what areas need to be improved?
3. How does the Shedd deal with human impacts on marine ecology and organisms? Think of this from the perspective of an educational service that the Shedd provides as well as from the perspective of the Shedd Aquarium as a role model for how the public should be considering and treating marine resources.

For the assignment, write A MAXIMUM of one page on your chosen topic. You may use the whole page or only part of a page and it may be single-spaced or double-spaced; whatever you need to precisely get your point across. I will not read anything exceeding one page! Page must be 8½ X 11 paper, 10 to 12 point font. The paper is due in class at 1:15 p.m. on Wednesday, 18 January. Do not e-mail me your paper. I will be looking for how deeply you've thought about the topic, how well you address the topic, and how efficiently you get your point across within the space limitations. If it helps, imagine you are writing this for Natural History, Discover, or American Scientist, or are writing a short column for a newspaper. Place an appropriate title at the top of the page, followed by your name, and then the body of the paper. If you need references, they must be cited in the paper, but the bibliography/reference list does not count in the one-page limit and can be on a separate page. Follow the format for references as given in the guidelines for the term paper.