

I started to work on my paper during my Environmental Literature Capstone in Fall 2018. I have since pursued the opportunity to develop my research into a joint Dean's Scholar project and English Department Honors undergraduate thesis. My research lies at the intersection of economics, literature, and policy with the common thread of human impact on the environment pulling my project together. This wide scope has allowed me to explore a broad range of sources but has also presented challenges in finding applicable materials to build my knowledge base and then synthesizing them into my research paper.

During Winter Term 2019, I attended the Humanities Research Methods Workshop taught by Assistant Professor of History Lindsay Schakenbach Regele. We participated in a workshop at King Library focused on identifying primary sources to center our research around. My research is primarily concerned with Garrett Hardin's 1968 "The Tragedy of the Commons" article and three works of environmental literature. However, I also needed to find a recent example of environmental law to compare how these different articulations of the human/environment relationship across disciplines compare to practical implementations in policy. During this visit, I used library resources to find the document that now functions as the concluding rhetorical analysis in my paper: the Paris Agreement. Once I had chosen this text, my research shifted to seeking secondary sources that contextualize my analyses and identifying the specific gap in knowledge I aimed to fill.

In 2019, I was offered and accepted an Undergraduate Research Fellowship at the Humanities Summer Institute at Miami University. During the summer, I met weekly with Associate Professor of History Erik Jensen and several fellow undergraduate students pursuing research projects ranging from the Summer Scholars program to independent studies in a variety

of fields. In July, we met at King Library twice. At the first meeting, Librarian Jenny Presnell guided us on research strategies for our particular topics. Typically, I avoid using Google Scholar to find sources because I cannot be certain I'll have access to them, and their validity is uncertain. However, the "cited by" link that Librarian Presnell showed us was helpful to solve these problems. Garrett Hardin's article has been cited by over 42,000 other articles and documents. His work has been referenced in a variety of contexts, so I had to narrow my parameters to find relevant sources. After refining my search with the keywords "rhetoric" and "language," I was able to use this feature in my literature review of "The Tragedy of the Commons." Once I found a source with potential, I checked to see how many other accredited scholars and institutions have cited it, and then I logged into JSTOR to check if I had access to the source from Miami University Libraries. From this method, I found Michel Morin's "Indigenous Peoples, Political Economist and the Tragedy of the Commons," Manfred Stanley's "The Mystery of the Commons: On the Indispensability of Civic Rhetoric," and John Vandermeer's "Tragedy of the Commons: The Meaning of the Metaphor." In my search, I discovered an article on Hardin's work entitled "Neoliberalism, Genre, and 'The Tragedy of the Commons'" by Rob Nixon. This author also wrote *Slow Violence*, which I analyze in the environmental nonfiction literature section of my project in contrast to Hardin's rhetoric and construction of truth. This finding confirmed my theory that, although there is no direct reference to Hardin's article in the book, Nixon is aware of Hardin's work. I was thus able to better connect Nixon's language and ideas to Hardin's article in my literary analysis. Also during this initial meeting, the librarian informed us of Miami University's inclusion in OhioLINK, which allows students access to several college and university libraries in Ohio as well as the State

Library of Ohio. This made me more confident in searching for a wide range of sources since I could likely gain access to them even if Miami University Libraries did not have physical copies.

At the second meeting, we were introduced to the librarian in our specific field. Given that my topic includes economics, literature, and environmental policy, I met with Humanities and Social Sciences Librarian Mark Dahlquist. He guided me on how to efficiently use the advanced search function in the Miami University Libraries Databases to find secondary sources for my research on Hardin's article. I found *The Rhetoric of Economics* by Deirdre McCloskey, which allowed me to contextualize Hardin's article in terms of the typical rhetoric employed in economic papers. Through the Economics Subject & Course Guides, I discovered *EconLit*, a source of journal articles and books on economic development that was useful to me. On August 7th, the institute went to the Mercantile Library in Cincinnati. We were given an informative tour about the history and importance of membership libraries in the United States. While I didn't find sources directly related to Hardin's article, I discovered some interesting books such as *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate* by Naomi Klein and *The Politics of Pollution* by J. Clarence Davies. Although I did not directly reference either of these texts in my paper, they did increase my literacy on the topics of environmental economics and policies.

I conducted my third round of research at the beginning of the 2020 Spring Semester. During this time, I used the Miami University Libraries Databases to find secondary sources for my initial research on international environmental policy and the Paris Agreement. I checked out *Emerging Principles of International Environmental Law* by Sumudu Atapattu and *The Implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change* by Vesselin Popovski from King Library. These sources provided a framework for my rhetorical analysis of the agreement.

Throughout my research process, I've grown to appreciate the wide and varied access to secondary sources Miami University Libraries provides its students. In mid-April, I will be defending my thesis to a panel of English professors and I have registered to share my results during a two-hour poster session at Miami University's Undergraduate Research Forum.