

The student demonstrated an outstanding understanding of the complex environmental cycling of carbon. He devoted a tremendous amount of time and effort to obtain and analyse soil samples to comprehend the effects of pine beetle infestation on the levels of carbon in the soil. The student designed a thorough and multifaceted sampling and analytical method taking advantage of access to sophisticated instrumental facilities. However, the direct involvement of the student in all the different field and laboratory stages of this essay is evident. He provided very clear conclusions and the final product is an advanced essay beyond the anticipated level of a high school research project.