

Assignment Prompt

Overview:

This assignment is designed to help you develop a comprehensive understanding of urbanization, its drivers, and its far-reaching impacts. By engaging with real-world data and current events, you will be better equipped to analyze and respond to the dynamic changes occurring in urban environments. This knowledge is not only academically enriching but also practically relevant as urbanization continues to be a defining feature of the 21st century.

Module Learning Outcomes:

1. **MLO 7.1:** Describe the processes and reasons behind urbanization (CLO 9).
2. **MLO 7.2:** Analyze the distribution of urbanization and its socio-economic impacts (CLO 8, CLO 9).
3. **MLO 7.3:** Evaluate the concepts of metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas and their implications (CLO 8, CLO 9).
4. **MLO 7.4:** Investigate current events related to urbanization and discuss their broader geographic implications (CLO 4, CLO 8, CLO 9).

Assignment Instructions:

Understanding urbanization and its impacts is crucial for addressing the challenges and opportunities associated with growing cities. Analyzing current trends and events related to urbanization helps to comprehend the socio-economic and environmental implications of this global phenomenon.

Assignment Requirements:

Steps to complete this assignment:

- Choose Your Focus:
 - - Select an urban area to explore (for example New York City, Tokyo, Lagos).
 - Choose a current event related to urbanization (for example the impact of COVID-19 on urban space, migration trends, smart city initiatives. See also the information box below for examples).

Current Event Examples

Examples (click to reveal)

- Urban Area Focus (Lagos' rapid population growth and infrastructure development plans).
- Current Event Focus (How the pandemic has changed urban living and working patterns).
- Smart City Initiatives (Singapore's implementation of smart city technologies and their impact on urban living).

Tools and Resources (click to reveal)

- **GIS Tools:** ArcGIS Online, QGIS, Google My Maps, or any other GIS software you are comfortable with.
- **Data Sources:** Government databases (e.g., CDC for COVID-19 data, UNHCR for refugee data), academic journals, online databases (e.g., Google Scholar), and reliable news sources.
- Research and Gather Data:
 - Use the course textbook and lecture notes to understand the basics of urbanization.
 - Find current news articles, scholarly articles, and credible online resources to provide up-to-date context and examples.
 - Collect maps, charts, and visual aids that help illustrate your findings.
- Create Your Project:
 - Presentation: Create a 7-10 slide presentation using PowerPoint, Google Slides, or any presentation software. Include maps, charts, and images to make your presentation visually appealing.
 - Infographic: Use tools like Canva to design an engaging infographic. Ensure it is clear, informative, and visually striking. Include a 3-5 page reports that includes the key components as outlined below.
 - Video: Record a 5-7 minute video presentation using tools like Adobe Spark, iMovie, or any video editing software. Incorporate visuals, maps, and your narration.
- Include Key Components:
 - Introduction: Briefly introduce urbanization and the specific urban area or current event you have chosen.
 - Main Content:
 - Urbanization Overview: Discuss the reasons for urbanization, including economic potential and other factors.
 - Distribution of Urbanization: Analyze the global distribution of urbanization, noting differences between more developed and less developed regions.

- Metropolitan Areas: Explain the concept of metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas using examples.
 - Current Trends: Highlight current trends in urbanization, such as rapid growth in certain cities, suburbanization, or the development of megacities.
- Current Event Analysis: Connect your research to a current event, explaining how urbanization plays a role in this event. Discuss its socio-economic and environmental impacts.
- Analyze Geographic Implications:
 1. Describe the geographic implications of urbanization on the chosen area or event. How does urbanization affect spatial distribution, land use, and resource allocation?
 2. Consider the socio-economic and environmental consequences of urbanization in your analysis.
- Impact Assessment:
 - Assess the impact of the event or urbanization trend on the area. How are social structures, economies, and the environment being affected?
 - Discuss the short-term and long-term implications of urbanization for the chosen urban area or current event. What future challenges and opportunities might arise from these impacts?

Submission Options:

Written Analysis (with images):

Submit a written report including maps and images that support your analysis.

PowerPoint Presentation:

Create a PowerPoint presentation with slide notes that clarify your analysis and include supporting images.

Video Presentation:

Create a video presentation (using tools like Canva or other video tools) that includes your analysis and a handout with supporting information.

Submission Instructions:

- **Assignment Title:** Topic Selection
- **Submission Format:** Please upload your completed analytical report.
- **Rubric:** Before submitting your report, please review the rubric carefully to understand the grading criteria and expectations for each criterion. Your report will be assessed based on the criteria outlined in the rubric.

- **Additional Resources:** If you have any questions about the assignment or need clarification on any aspect, please refer to the assignment description or reach out to your instructor for assistance.
- **Note:** Ensure that your document is complete, well-organized, and thoroughly addresses all aspects of the assignment prompt. Good luck!