EPSc 116A: Resources of the Earth
Write-up on Self-Chosen Article

Due on Monday, April 25th.
Please read all of these directions before starting to write your report

Rationale: The goal of most of your “technical reading” after college will be to gain information about some topic of your choosing.

It is therefore important to learn how:

– to define what information you are looking for,
– to focus your attention on the parts of an article that are critical to your needs,
– after the reading, to assess whether you still need more information or clarification.

Practice that kind of reading and writing here.

Ground Rules: You choose your own article, but it must be equivalent in length to 7 or more complete 8.5 x 11" pages. The article must be dated 2005 or more recent. The topic of this article will be the focus of your report, and you will support your write-up with several other sources (either: your textbook + at least 2 other articles in journals or on the Web, OR at least 3 other journal/Web articles). You also can report on 2+ shorter, related articles whose total is 7+ pages. Ask me if you are uncertain about the acceptability of your choice.

As you read your chosen paper(s) and do the write-up, consider yourself to be in one of the following positions:

– paid consultant for a company or agency,
– employee of a small company or non-governmental agency,
– member of your city council,
– member of a citizens’ group, or
– homeowner-taxpayer who is disappointed at the low quality of information provided by one of the previously listed organizations.

1. Approximate length of report: equivalent to about 5 pages of double-spaced 11-point type.

2. Please give me a copy or loan me your original of the article(s) when you turn in the report.

3. Please label these sections in your report, and follow the directions for them:

   a. What role (see the list above) are you adopting for the purpose of writing this report?

   b. Why did you select this particular article? [Consider your role again.] What did you hope or expect to learn from it? (few sentences)

   c. Summarize your article in about 1.5 pages of text. As you write this summary, consider the nature of your audience in this role-playing.
d. **Choose two** of the topics below to write on:

(1) The point in the article with which you **most strongly disagreed**. Discuss the author's presentation and his/her evidence, then your disagreement and reasoning. Bring in information from your other sources to refute the author's arguments and/or support your own.

(2) The most important **new** information you encountered, which changed or clarified your outlook on this issue. **Explain in detail**. Bring in information from your other sources.

(3) Choose one or two particularly informative **diagrams**. Put a photocopy of it/them in the report. In detail, discuss the axes (or other major elements) of the diagram(s), what information is being presented, and the diagram's significance (include your interpretation). What other diagrams or tables might have been useful in the article?

(4) From your additional readings on this topic, e.g., in your text, on the Web, or in the encyclopedia *Britannica* on-line (see [http://library.wustl.edu/reference/](http://library.wustl.edu/reference/); select “encyclopedias”), focus on information that is contradictory to or otherwise significant to the article you read. Explain what you found, why you are highlighting this information, and how it affects your “report to the committee, agency, ..."}

4. Write an annotated bibliography of your 4-5 sources, placing an asterisk beside your major chosen article. Such bibliographies are useful for colleagues who later may want to read your sources. **List** the author, publication date, article title, journal title, volume #, page numbers for a journal article. For a Web reference, give the URL and its source, if possible (often you can find to what major document or agency a Web page belongs by truncating the URL and working back toward the stem). If you used your textbook as one of your references, please note which pages were most pertinent.

**Annotations**: After each bibliographic entry, write a sentence or two explaining the nature of the information provided in the document and/or the nature of the agency that published/funded the document. Such information is very useful to outside readers.

5. Example of Format

   **My Role**

   **Selection Criteria**

   **Summary**

   **Topic 1**

   **Topic 4**

   **Annotated Bibliography**