

Writing and the Environment

Exercise 2a (Email due Sunday, March 6th by midnight.)

The briefest of all exercises:

Identify the water resource management issue that you intend to investigate in your next essay. The issue you investigate should be linked to a specific locale. Here are some possibilities:

- How should we allocate the scarce water supply of inland Northern California? (farmers, fishermen, and Native Americans in Upper Klamath basin),
- Is anyone responsible for the growing “Dead Zone” at the mouth of the Mississippi River? (northern farmers vs. southern fishermen),
- Should we dredge the Hudson River to remove PCBs in the river bed? (EPA says yes; GE and others say no),
- Who owns Texas groundwater and what role should it play in serving the water needs of growing cities? (Farmers and ranchers take on cities and wealthy corporations that mine the aquifers beneath rural landowners.)
- Do massive dam projects serve the best interests of developing countries? (Narmada dam project in India [in progress], Three Gorges dam project in China [in progress], Tarbela dam [completed] in Pakistan)
- What role should money play in controlling access to scarce water supplies in the arid Southwestern states? (Las Vegas buys itself a future.)
- Is it possible to devise an equitable plan for water distribution among nations at odds with one another politically? (Israel vs. the Palestinian territory) (Turkey vs. its neighbors)
- Should the Spanish government divert the water from the water-rich north of the country to supply water to farmers in the dry south of Spain? (farmers vs. environmentalists and northerners)

Send me your exercise via email by Sunday at midnight.