

BIS300A Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies: Water Spring 2006

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Informal Response Assignment #1

The purpose of this writing assignment is to *individually* reflect upon two topics we have discussed in class and to compare and contrast some aspect of them. It is not intended that any additional research would be done.

Preliminary Work: Carry out the class readings carefully for the first two weeks of the course. The “informality” of this assignment implies: 1) No further research beyond the course readings is expected; and 2) a relatively modest effort. You would not devote as much time to this as to one of the four more formal writing assignments.

Topic or thesis: You have read two articles (paper by Miller and chapter in D&J) about the Edwards Aquifer in South Texas. You have also read a paper by Esteller about an aquifer and related hydrology in a mountain valley in central Mexico. In this paper, you should compare and contrast these two resources and their problems, focusing on one or at the most two, aspects of the hydrology/geology/natural history or historical/cultural/political/economic context of the two sites. That is, you should base your comparison on only one or two aspects of the two contexts.

Development: Identify clearly the aspect on which you are basing your compare and contrast. Be very specific (with citations to the papers) about the features that are different or similar and why they appear that way to you. *If you are uncertain about how to approach a compare and contrast paper, this would be a good thing to discuss with your writing center tutor.*

Style: This is formal writing and should be an example of good grammar, correct spelling, effective word choice, and articulate sentence and paragraph structure.

Length: No more than 500 words max (approx two pages, double spaced, one inch margins, 12-pt font). *These formats are to be observed!*

Bibliography: A list of endnotes should appear at the end of your paper. Each source discussed should appear there only once. Nothing should appear in the list that is not referenced in the text. If you refer to the same source more than once, cross reference the previous endnote rather than entering the same source twice in the bibliography. Use either the Name-Year or Citation-Sequence system of endnotes, described in the CBE style references.

Schedule: The assignment is due electronically before 6:00 AM on April 12. No late submissions will be accepted.