

21W. 730
Spring 2005

Cynthia B. Taft

Writing and the Environment

Exercise 2b (due Thursday, March 10th):

In order to write your second essay, you will need to develop a thorough knowledge of the articles you have chosen. This exercise will get you started.

Write a one page (200-300 word) summary of each article.

(Your summary should not reveal your opinion of the article.)

Then, in one or two sentences, identify the priorities that shape each article.

(In other words, what values determine the author's assessment of the issue at hand?)

Then, in one or two sentences, identify possible weak spots or omissions in each article.

(In other words, what aspects of the author's argument or evidence strike you as particularly weak? What aspects of the issue has the author deliberately or inadvertently overlooked?)

I assume that most of you will work with two articles that express opposing views on a single issue. If, however, you would rather work with three articles, you should treat all three articles in your exercise. This option only makes sense for those of you who have chosen two relatively short articles that present a single point of view and a longer article that expresses an opposing point of view.

Bring 5 copies of your exercise.

If any of you would like to have more time to complete this exercise, you may do part of the exercise for Thursday and complete the rest by Friday at noon. If you take this option, you should write up one of your articles by Thursday. You should bring five copies of the abbreviated exercise to class and email me the completed exercise Friday morning.