

Long Issue Brief

U.S. Environmental Politics and Policy

The collaborative product of this class will be a volume on current U.S. federal environmental issues suitable for distribution on the college website and submission to the Clapp library. It will represent your collective research into federal environmental issues and your consensus position on these issues.

Your long issue brief will be a 12-15 pages, 1-1/2 spaced research paper on your assigned issue. It should meet the same criteria as your short issue briefs: concise, specific, analytical, and including relevant evidence, facts, and figures. It will conclude with a recommended policy position, which has been confirmed by the class.

Your long issue brief offers an opportunity to undertake additional research into your specific topic beyond the materials we engage in to produce the short issue briefs. You should draw on the materials available for the class case study, your fellow students' short issue briefs, consultation with me, and (most importantly) additional outside research. Also, your long issue brief should reflect events relevant to your issue through the end of the semester.

The issue brief should accomplish the following:

- * clearly define the policy issue being evaluated
- * include a one-page executive summary (which you'll likely write last)
- * provide relevant background information, including laws, rules, status of issue, scientific and economic information, position of relevant stakeholders, and potential courses of action
- * recommend a course of action
- * be intelligible to an environmental studies student who has not taken this course

Potential models for this issue brief include the Congressional Research Service briefs or case studies included in Layzer's volume *Environmental Case Studies* (available in the library). Please include full citations and a bibliography for this long issue brief (the bibliography and any tables, figures, or graphs are in addition to the 12-15 pages).

Workgroups

While each student is the chief author for her individual issue brief, each student will also be a part of a smaller workgroup examining related topics. You and members of your working group are responsible for assembling your individual briefs into a section of the final volume, which includes peer-editing each other's work, serving as resources for one another, and collectively writing a one-page introduction for your section of the volume.

Steps to Complete this Assignment

1. Undertake additional research and consult with Jay.
2. Turn in a draft 2 days prior to your assigned peer-editing review session.
3. Update your draft as issues relevant to your case study change during the term.
4. Complete an additional peer-review session with your working group during reading period.
5. Turn in completed issue brief prior to the exam period.