Unit II Paper:  
Research

Beginning with the broad unit topic (The Environment and Global Poverty), define and research a narrow paper topic of your choice. While research on the links between the environment and global poverty is encouraged, you may choose to focus your paper on only one of these issues (the environment or poverty). The key here is that you pursue a topic that is of interest to you(!), and that you narrow it down significantly by developing a number of research questions (see Hacker, Section R1-a, pp.296-298).

There are many ways to narrow your topic. Two examples would be to choose a particular environmental problem (i.e. deforestation, pollution, or global warming) and/or a particular region of the United States or the world on which to focus (i.e. Peru, the Appalachian mountains, or Nigeria). Your initial internet and library searches can aid you in narrowing this topic, especially if you apply questions to the materials you find.

Your paper requires a minimum of five sources. You are encouraged to use more than five sources, but all the sources you cite must clearly relate to your thesis. Simply discussing and/or quoting additional sources for no clear purpose or to fill up space will lower your grade. At least one source should be from the assigned readings in class (or the video we watched). A minimum of three sources must come from your outside research in the library and on the internet. Of the minimum three external sources, no more than one can be a website. Finally, at least two sources should come from a periodical, academic journal, or monograph (book) publication.

You may wish to develop a tentative thesis before completing your research, but your final thesis should be developed on the basis of the information you uncover in the process of your research.

The final draft of the paper will fulfill these criteria:

1) 5-7 pages in length

2) Presents a clear thesis supported by evidence

3) Documented in APA style

Two copies of a rough draft at least four pages in length are due in class for Peer Review on Monday, Nov. 13.

The final draft is due in class with portofolio and rubric attached on Monday, Nov. 20. Make sure that your portfolio is either presented in a folder or connected by a paper clip – don’t staple everything together!