Lafayette College  
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering  
CE 321: Environmental Engineering and Science  
Fall 2016

Homework #1  
Due: Monday, 9/5/16

1. Using library and web resources, find three (3) separate hometown environmentally related news articles. Write a brief (one or two paragraphs) summary, in your own words, on each article. Be sure to add your own perspective on the incident. Include news articles with the summaries.

2. What is the name of the watershed your home-town is located in?
   a. Identify three (3) issues/examples within your watershed that demonstrate significant environmental impact (i.e., unsustainable practices or conditions). Issues/examples could be based the follow:
      i. areas that may be environmentally sensitive
      ii. industry
      iii. developments
      iv. or any ongoing situation or activity that impacts the environment in some way.
   b. Provide a sentence or two that explains each of the 3 issues/examples as you best understand it.

3. Name three actions/behaviors you will work to improve over this semester that could be considered sustainable living practices.
   a. Provide at least one reference (not more than three) for each action/behavior that confirms the behavior(s)/action(s) you are calling "sustainable living practices" is indeed sustainable?
      i. References must be from reliable sources such as technical papers, documented literature from the web, scientific readings, etc.
      ii. Tables, graphs, charts?
      iii. Diary?
   b. Extra CREDIT if proof of completion is provided at the end of the semester.

4. Variations in definition of Sustainability:
   a. Identify three definitions of sustainability from there sources (for example, local, state, or federal government; industry; environmental organization; international organization; financial or investment organization).
   b. Compare and contrast those definitions with the Bruntland Commission definition.
   c. How do the definitions reflect their sources (i.e., where you got the definition)?

5. Using EPA’s Website (www.epa.gov), research an area that interest you (e.g. Hydraulic Fracturing, Climate Change, Pesticides and Food…etc.). Write a one-page essay; 1) define your topic, 2) explain why the topic is of interest, 3) how it relates environmental engineering, 4) how you might go about leaning more.