Current events

Summary of the last part of the course:

In the first part of the course, we developed concepts of standpoints, priorities, institutions, externalities, common pool resources, policy-making and politics.

In the second part of the course, we applied these concepts to

- Land, the foundation of environmental problems
- Fossil fuels: coal, oil, and natural gas
- Alternative forms of energy: nuclear, hydro, solar, wind, geothermal
- Air Quality
- Water and Water Quality

Each of these issues involves government, and each involves conflicting standpoints & priorities

Because each involves government and conflicting priorities, each *requires* political decision-making and the policy processes that Rosenbaum & *Taking Sides* described and we talked about in class

- DO NOT FORGET this basic fact in your memos.

In each case, past decisions affect current decisions – and both past and present decisions will shape the decisions you will confront in the future.

How Does the U.S. Govern Waste?

Solid Waste

What's the situation?

Not in My (Government's) Backyard

Pass the Trash: The Voyage of the *Mobro*

Solid waste regulation

Recycling – Popular in Theory, but Practicality varies

Trash to energy

Toxics

a. Lead: A case study

b. The dimensions of the problem

Toxic Waste: The Issue-Attention Cycle

Love Canal

Times Beach, Russell Bliss and Dioxin in Eastern Missouri

c. Regulating toxics from cradle to grave

- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), 1976
- Toxic Substances Control Act, 1976
- The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, or Superfund), 1980

Problems with regulation

- Power flows to discretion
- Delays in regulating hazardous chemicals.

- Costs
    - The Morass of Litigation

Brownfields