

PEL Current Events Notebook

Winter 2005

Due date: Tuesday of Week 9, March 1 (to seminar faculty).

With this assignment you will be able to broaden your knowledge of **sources of relevant information** and gain **new understanding of topics and issues** in the environmental field. Your notebook will include a total of 7 entries chosen from popular (4) and academic/professional sources (3).

In addition, as your 8th entry, you should choose a bill from the current state legislative session and follow its progress over the next 8 weeks, or as long as it is under consideration. You do not need to go to all the hearings on the bill, but you should go to one and then follow its progress through the legislative process using on-line information primarily. You may also have to contact committee staff or the office of the sponsoring legislator in some instances if you lose track of the bill.

Sources for the popular entries include newspapers, general purpose magazines, and the on-line sites of Grist or Planetizen, etc. You might also look at publications from organizations such as the Washington Environmental Council's Voices or the Contract Loggers' Springboard.

Academic or professional sources include the American Planning Association's Journal or Planning for the planning field and The Economist or the Wall Street Journal for economics. You should have at least one entry from planning and one from economics.

Each of the 7 popular and professional entries should include:

- 1) a citation of the article,
- 2) a Xerox or electronic copy, and
- 3) a piece from you that states why the article is of interest to you and indicates how it is relevant to PEL. You should also write an analytical section that discusses its significance for the program content and themes. Each entry should be about 2-3 paragraphs in length and typed.

The bill entry should include:

- 1) the title, bill number, house of origin, sponsor(s), and committee assignment(s).
- 2) a chronology of its movement through the legislature and dates of hearings (noting the one you attended) and any subsequent amendments. (Most bills will not make it through the full legislative process. A list of prefiled bills is already on the legislature's website.)
- 3) Again, you should complete the entry with an indication of your interest and its relevance to the program followed by a short commentary about its significance.

Finally, this notebook should also include your field notes from our field trip to the legislature during Week 5. Use the language in the "assignments" section of the syllabus for content detail.