

ENVS 456 Environmental Governance, Spring 2016
Professor Neff

Final essay prompts

Due: Tuesday, June 7th at 1pm via Canvas. No late essays accepted!
30% of final grade

The best essays will draw on readings from throughout the quarter thus far, and not rely repeatedly upon a small subset of them. **All of the authors can help you to build and justify your answers.** You must reflect on and build upon ideas from class to get credit for your work. Feel free to bring in ideas from the first half of the term; technology and economics are intertwined. **Put on your critical thinking hat and convince someone who does not already think along the same lines as you.**

You can always do outside reading to help you justify a point, but that should not be necessary for this assignment. Well, you may have to re-read The Lorax.

Answer two of the following three questions, in no more than three pages each:

1. Rewrite the ending to Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (specify where you leave off). What WAS the embedded message about the causes of and solutions to environmental problems? What did you change that message to, and why? I want you to think of the effects of framing problems in particular ways. (I'll scan and post a copy ASAP)
2. Can economic mechanisms help us to address the world's environmental problems? What is gained by trying? What is lost?
3. We started the term with a reading by Kahan and Braman that suggested that our cultural worldviews are hugely influential in shaping the way we as individuals assess questions of public policy. Given that changing culture is – at best – slow and difficult, can we work beyond or through our divergent ideas of the role of capitalism in society to achieve better environmental outcomes? ** do not rely only on that reading for answering this prompt- this is an opportunity to synthesize across the entire term **