

River Rights: Whose Water Is It?

An Exercise in Reading Rhetorically

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Reading Selections for This Module

McEwen, Bill. "River Plan Too Fishy for My Taste Buds." *Fresno Bee* 26 Mar. 2009. ProQuest. Web.

Weintraub, Daniel. "River Restoration Project Offers a Sprinkling of Hope." *Sacramento Bee* 26 Apr. 2009: E1.Print.

Prereading

Activity 1: "Pre-Test"

Let's see how much prior knowledge you have!

San Joaquin River Delta Project

1. Where does most of California's drinking water come from?
 - a. Rain and snowfall
 - b. The ocean
 - c. Aquifers
 - d. Wells

2. Which of the following accurately describes the Central Valley of California?
 - a. One of the world's most productive agriculture regions
 - b. The driest area in California with a large population
 - c. An empty desert
 - d. The most populated area in California

3. Into which part of California does the San Joaquin River flow?
 - a. Southern California
 - b. Northern California
 - c. Central California
 - d. Coastal California

4. The original purpose of dams was to
 - a. Make a lake for recreational purposes.
 - b. Store water for California residents.
 - c. Give fish a place to live.
 - d. Prevent flooding.

5. Which ocean fish has to swim upstream through rivers to lay eggs?
 - a. Cod
 - b. Bass
 - c. Catfish
 - d. Salmon

6. What region of California has the largest population?
 - a. Northern California
 - b. Central Valley
 - c. Bay Area
 - d. Southern California

7. Currently, most of the water from the San Joaquin River flows to
 - a. Bay Area residents.
 - b. Southern California residents.
 - c. Pacific Ocean.
 - d. The Friant Dam.

8. How does diverting water away from a river for municipal, household drinking purposes affect the river's ecosystem?
 - a. Less wildlife and plants
 - b. Less flooding in residential areas
 - c. More food for the fish
 - d. Stronger ecosystem

9. What and where is the San Joaquin-/Sacramento Delta?
 - a. Area where the San Joaquin River begins to run into the ocean
 - b. Area where the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers meet
 - c. Flood plains around the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers
 - d. Places where the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers dry up

10. The San Joaquin-Sacramento Delta made national headlines because
 - a. It is the most agriculturally productive area in the state
 - b. Farmers are losing their jobs
 - c. It is one of the most endangered river areas in America
 - d. There is a strong controversy between farmers, the fishing industry, and others in California over the river

11. The main reason California Central Valley farmers are losing their farms is because
 - a. There is not enough water to keep their farms productive.
 - b. They went on strike to fight for their water allocation.
 - c. The bad economy makes workers scarce.
 - d. The river keeps flooding their farms.

After learning the answers, discuss and/or reflect on what you didn't know and why that might be important.

Activity 2: Quickwrite

Think about how much water you and members of your household use on a daily basis. Write for five minutes on each of the three questions listed below. The purpose of this writing is to provide personal thoughts and opinions on the subject. Respond in a paragraph format, yet focus on your thoughts and examples rather than on spelling and grammar.

1. What would you do if you were told that you and your family had to use half as much water as you usually use? How would you adjust your water consumption?
2. What kind of reason would make this change in water usage more acceptable?
3. Who would you want making decisions about water supply and usage? Explain.

Activity 3: Getting Ready to Read: On-Demand Essay

You will have 45 minutes to plan and write an essay on the topic assigned below. Before you begin writing, read the passage carefully and plan what you will say. Your essay should be as well organized and carefully written as you can make it. It must be written in front of your teacher, parent, or other specified adult.

“Water Controversies Boil Over”

The excerpt from this story is taken from the Sacramento Bee “Opinion” section published April 26, 2009.

In the coming year, 46 nations risk violent conflict over water and climate-related crises, and 56 other countries face political instability, according to a study by International Alert, a British advocacy group. The United Nations says water wars may be more likely in the future than wars over oil.

“Water will ... become one of the defining limits to human development and a compounding factor in human misery,” Achim Steiner, director of the U.N. Environment Programme (Program), said during the World Water Forum, attended by more than 30,000 government officials and nonprofit leaders last month in Istanbul, Turkey.

A key message at the forum: There is probably enough fresh water available to meet human needs, despite climate change and population growth. However, the problem is poor management of water, which results in scarcity and conflict.

Fights over water—some small, some as large as California—are occurring across the globe. ...Solving these conflicts (he says) requires us to accept that water does not belong to anyone. It belongs to all.

Mat Weiser

Explain Weiser’s argument, and discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with his analysis. Support your position, providing reasons and examples from your own experience, observations, or reading.

Take the following steps for this exercise:

- Read the assignment carefully.
- Decide which issue you are going to discuss.
- Discuss the purpose of the assignment. What will you try to accomplish in your essay?
- Remember the key components of an essay!
Introduction with thesis, **Body** paragraphs with reasons and evidence/examples, **Conclusion**

Activity 4: Exploring Key Concepts

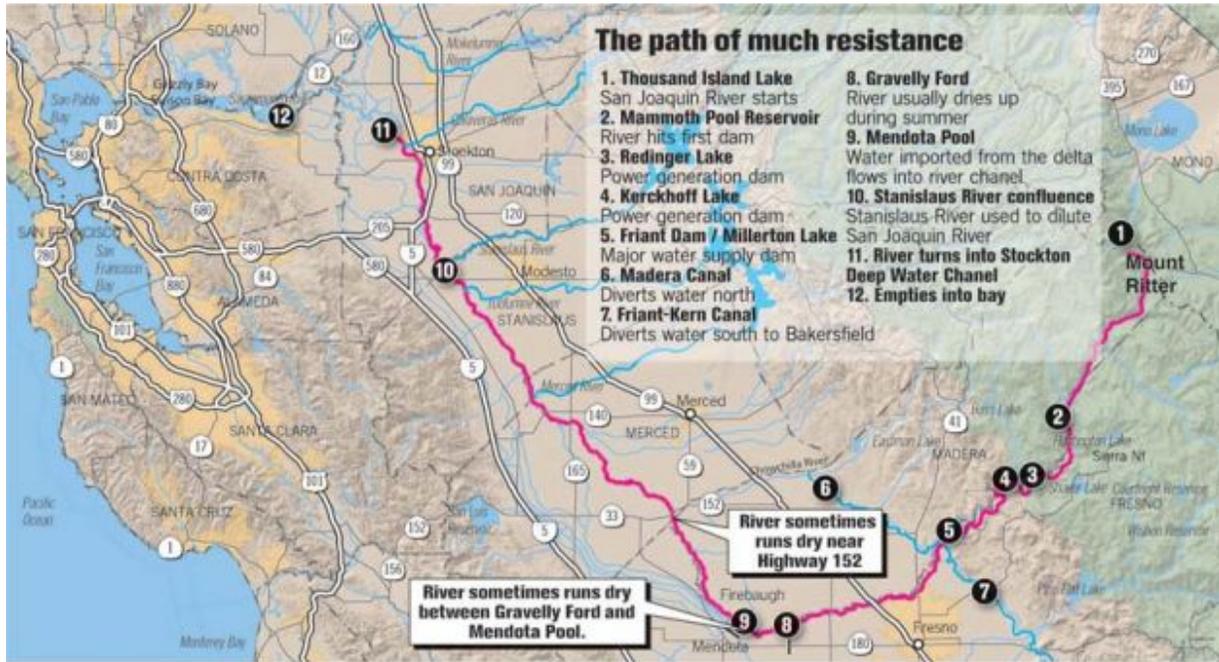
Read and interpret topographic and geological maps.

Following are some maps to increase your understanding of the California water system. You may access many more from the Internet as well.

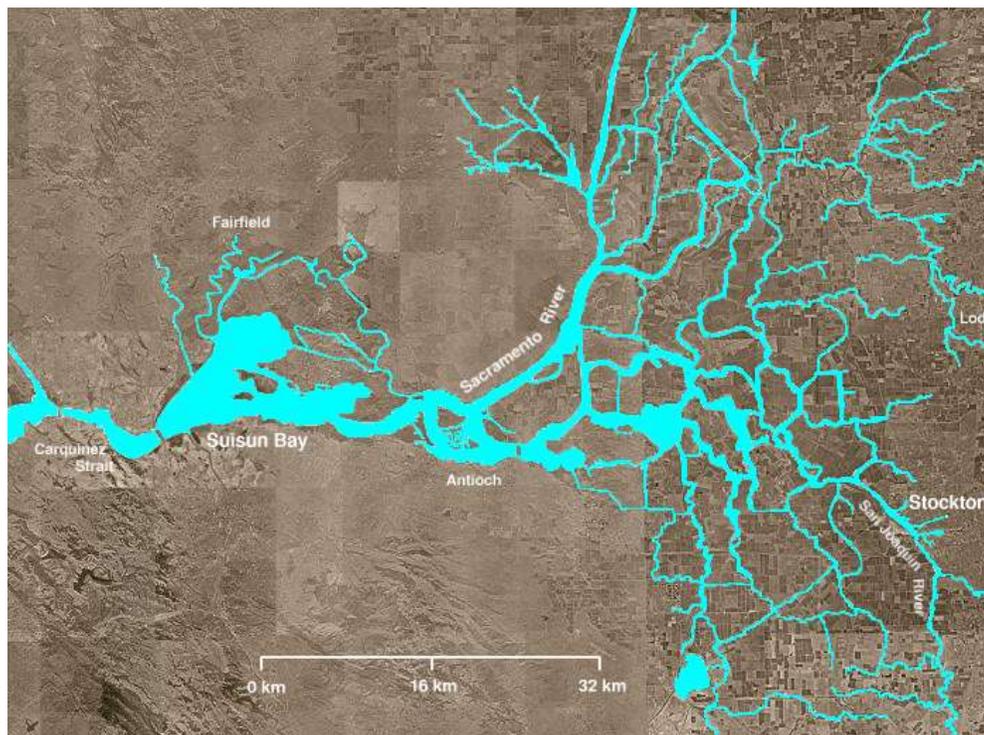
Major California Rivers



Map of the damned San Joaquin River



Northern California's Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. The Sacramento River flows into the delta from the north and the San Joaquin River from the south through Stockton.



Finally, view the short video “A River Reborn” on YouTube for a brief history of the San Joaquin River and some live images of various stages and places along the river. Keep in mind that the video is produced and funded by an environmental organization!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51hyb3v5ROo>

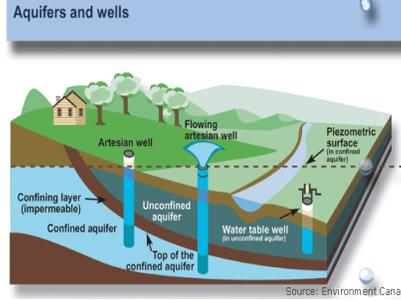
Vocabulary: San Joaquin River Delta Project

Science concept words have been identified and are included in a series of images below. As you view each picture, draw your own version of the concept in the space provided. Then, write a definition based on your knowledge and/or discussion of the concept word.

 <p>delta</p>	 <p>channel</p>
 <p>canal</p>	 <p>irrigate</p>
 <p>aqueduct</p>	 <p>runoff</p>



bank



aquifer

Vocabulary	Picture	Definition
delta		
channel		
canal		
irrigate		
aqueduct		

Activity 7: Understanding Key Vocabulary

The following vocabulary words will be important to your understanding of the articles you will be reading. Record your knowledge of each word. If you are familiar with a particular word, write your definition. Otherwise, use a dictionary or go to Vocabulary.com online dictionary to obtain the meaning of the words.

Word	Definition	Can Use It in a Sentence	Know It	Don't Know It
Vocabulary from Weintraub's "River Restoration Project Offers a Sprinkling of Hope"				
combatants				
contentious				
restoration				
diversion				
momentum				
concede				

Word	Definition	Can Use It in a Sentence	Know It	Don't Know It
Vocabulary from McEwen's "River Plan Too Fishy for my Taste Buds"				
recirculation				
revitalize				
constituents				
monolith				
economic				

4. What, if anything, is confusing to you?

5. What is the main idea of each article? Write a sentence stating the main idea for each.

“River Plan Too Fishy for My Tastebuds”:

“River Restoration Project Offers a Sprinkling of Hope”:

Activity 9: Noticing Language—Science Vocabulary

delta	a flat area where rivers split apart or join a larger body of water
channel	the bed or course of a river
canal	an artificial or man-made waterway
irrigate	to supply dry land with water by means of ditches, pipes, or streams
aqueduct	a pipe or channel designed to transport water to areas with little natural water
runoff	rainfall not absorbed by the soil
bank	a slope of land on the sides of a body of water
aquifer	underground water (usually found in sandstone)

Which word is being described in each example?

1. ____ This type of water can make a waterfall.
2. ____ Through this system, southern California receives the water it needs from northern California.
3. ____ Weeping willows grow here; their branches hang over the water.
4. ____ Here the large river turns into three smaller rivers.
5. ____ A well usually gets its water from this source.
6. ____ This looks like a river, but there is no land on the sides, just sloped cement.
7. ____ Farmers create a sprinkler system for their crops.
8. ____ The direction or path of the river was directly north-south.

Vocabulary from the article by Daniel Weintraub

Below each underlined word, substitute a synonym from the word bank by writing the correct letter above the appropriate underlined section.

WORD BANK:	
A. return to its original condition	G. give in
B. shift to a new direction	H. money maker
C. causing disagreement	I. terrible
D. wasteful project	J. simple
E. force of movement	K. stability
F. people who argue	L. unnecessary project

“There’s a lesson here for combatants on other contentious issues large and small”

“At first the farmers fought the lawsuit that sought the river’s restoration”

“But once the courts ruled that the river’s diversion had endangered the salmon...”

“The environmentalists who brought the lawsuit, once having gained the legal momentum, could have refused to concede any points.”

Vocabulary from the article by Bill McEwen:

Below each underlined word, substitute an appropriate synonym word from the word bank by writing the letter above the matching underlined section.

<p>WORD BANK: A. bringing life back to B. move it in a new direction C. electronic memory parts D. institution E. effort F. voters</p>	<p>G. re-using H. money maker I. terrible J. singular, unchangeable block K. stability L. unnecessary project</p>
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“Two, there is no funding for dams or river recirculation technology that would maximize . . .”

“Ultimately, restoring salmon to the San Joaquin River is critical to revitalizing California’s ailing salmon hatchery”

“...of collars in coming years on a program that will yield a salmon exhibit instead of a sustainable fishery.

“ . . .why Congress--including Valley agriculture supporters such as Jim Costa of Fresno and Dennis Cardoza of Merced would support this boondoggle.

“...designed to protect representatives of the majority party from tough questioning by constituents”

“In addition, agriculture isn’t a monolith”

“We have a powerful economic engine in regard to food supply...” “We need more efforts to capture water -- not to divert it.”

“This [restoration plan] would be like diverting silicon chips away from San Jose to make toys instead of computers”

“The shame of it is that river restoration -- a worthwhile endeavor -- should’ve never been tied to salmon.”

“... a modest amount of water and supported the establishment of a trophy trout or bass fishery below Friant”

“We’re going to have dire poverty.”

Activity 10: Annotating and Questioning the Text

Let's briefly review the difference between fact and opinion. At the core, a fact can be proven. Usually a fact is supported by research, study, evaluation or precedence. An opinion is one that each person may make, based on personal beliefs, thoughts, values and cultural mores. Opinions are not supported, necessarily, by hard scientific fact.

Re-read both articles to identify the facts presented within the arguments representing the writer's opinion. As a way to identify facts from opinions, look for statistics, facts, researched evidence, and carefully chosen words that express opinions. Copy two strong facts from the article in the left hand-column. In the right-hand column, tell why you know this is a fact. Similarly, copy two strong instances of the author expressing his opinion. Then, to the right, explain why you are sure each is an opinion.

“River Restoration Project Offers a Sprinkling of Hope”

Strong Facts	How do you know?
Noted Author's Opinion	How do you know?

“River Plan Too Fishy for My Taste Buds”

Strong Facts	How do you know?
Noted Author’s Opinion	How do you know?

Review the chart below summarizing a comparison of informational and persuasive writing.

News Story – Informational	Opinion Piece--Persuasive
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer who, what where, when, how • Full of facts • Authoritative tone, believable • Informs rather than persuades • Includes quotations • No opinion offered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A response to an event or decision • Cites carefully chosen facts as evidence • Believable • Persuasive tone • Attempts to convince the reader to think as the writer does • May contain a call to action

Based on your re-read of the articles and a review of the chart above, how would you classify each of the articles in this unit? Explain why.

“River Restoration Project Offers a Sprinkling of Hope”

“River Plan Too Fishy for My Taste Buds”

Postreading

Activity 11: Summarizing and Responding

The Summary of Informational Text Template you will now complete is a tool to further your understanding of the author’s purpose, main claim, and audience in reference to the tone of the text. Word banks are provided for your reference, although you may use other words to best summarize the author’s intent.

Word Bank

A (text)	B (stance)	C (purpose)	D (purpose)	E (tone)
article /book review/essay/ column/ editorial etc. plus title	argument position assertion claim suggestion point question explanation statement etc.	comparing contrasting telling explaining illustrating showing demonstrating defining describing clarifying listing etc.	points out/ shows/suggests /states/questions argues/exposes/ proves etc.	academic formal informal sarcastic humorous informative contemptuous cautionary condescending respectful etc.

Summary of Informational Text Template #1

Reading Selection and Author:

Who/What? Sentence 1

_____ in the _____
(author) (text) (A)

_____, _____
(title) (verb) (D)

that _____.

How? Sentence 2

_____ supports his / her _____
(Author's last name) (stance) (B)

by _____
(C)

_____.

Why? Sentence 3

The author's purpose is to _____
(refer to (D) and add info)

_____ in order to/so that _____

_____.

To Whom? Sentence 4

The author writes in a _____ tone for _____
(E) (audience)

Summary of Informational Text Template #2

Reading Selection and Author:

Who/What? Sentence 1

_____ in the _____
(author) (text) (A)

_____, _____
(title) (verb) (D)

that _____.

How? Sentence 2

_____ supports his / her _____
(Author's last name) (stance) (B)

by _____
(C)

_____.

Why? Sentence 3

The author's purpose is to _____
(refer to (D) and add info)

_____ in order to/so that _____

_____.

To Whom? Sentence 4

The author writes in a _____ tone for _____
(E) (audience)

Activity 12: Thinking Critically

Ethos, Pathos and **Logos** are modes of persuasion used to convince audiences. They are also referred to as the three artistic proofs (Aristotle coined the terms), and are all represented by Greek words.

Ethos or the ethical appeal, means to convince an audience of the author's credibility or character.

An author would use ethos to show to his audience that he is a credible source and is worth listening to. Ethos is the Greek word for "character." The word "ethic" is derived from ethos.



Ethos can be developed by choosing language that is appropriate for the audience and topic (also means choosing proper level of vocabulary), making yourself sound fair or unbiased, introducing your expertise or pedigree, and by using correct grammar and syntax.

Pathos, or the emotional appeal, means to persuade an audience by appealing to their emotions.

Authors use pathos to invoke sympathy from an audience; to make the audience feel what he or she wants them to feel. A common use of pathos would be to draw pity from an audience. Another use of pathos would be to inspire anger from an audience, perhaps in order to prompt action. Pathos is the Greek word for both "suffering" and "experience." The words "empathy" and "pathetic" are derived from pathos.



Pathos can be developed by using meaningful language, connotative language, emotional tone, emotion-evoking examples, stories of emotional events.

Questions about the Writer (Ethos)

1. What can you infer (guess) about Weintraub and McEwen from their articles? How do they present themselves in ways to make readers trust their viewpoints?
2. Do you trust both authors? Why or why not?
3. Do you think the authors are serious? Why or why not?

Questions about Emotions (Pathos)

1. Which article affects you more emotionally? Why?
2. Do you think that McEwen is trying to manipulate your emotions? How or why?

5. Rate the following in order of importance to a farmer: the water you drink and use for personal needs, the water used to grow food, and the water needed to support wildlife.
6. How could the river restoration project help or hurt you?

Environmentalist

1. How did the Friant Dam affect the wildlife of the San Joaquin River?
2. Salmon need to swim from the ocean and upstream a river to the mountains to lay their eggs. How did the Friant Dam affect the salmon, and what results did this have on the salmon population?
3. How does the change in the salmon population affect other plants and animals that live around the river?
4. Rate the importance of the uses of the San Joaquin River: the water you drink and use for personal needs, the water used to grow your food, and the water needed to support wildlife.

5. As an environmentalist, do you think the Friant Dam was good or bad for your concerns? Explain your reasoning.
6. How could the river restoration project benefit or hurt you?

Politician

1. Why do politicians try to make everyone happy?
2. What new businesses might develop along the San Joaquin River if it was restored?
3. How would businesses or jobs created by the restoration of the San Joaquin River help you as a politician?
4. Describe how your background might influence your opinion on this topic?
5. Describe how people who donate money to politicians' re- elections influence their actions.

6. How do you think politicians should vote on the restoration project?

7. How could the river restoration project help or hurt you?

Resident of Southern California

1. Where does your water come from? (Even if you know this from reading the article, many Southern Californians may not know this. Let's be honest—many people do not know where their water comes from.)

2. Rate the importance of the uses of the San Joaquin River in order: the water you drink and personally use, the water used to grow your food, and the water needed to support wildlife.

3. Southern California is a desert. How does spending billions of dollars to take water from other sources in order to bring water to you make you feel?

4. Would you think it fair to charge southern California residents twice the amount of money for their water than other consumers in the state?

5. As a resident of southern California, do you think the Friant Dam was good or bad for you? Explain your reasoning.
6. How could the river restoration project help or hurt you?

Salmon Fisherman

1. How was your business doing before the Friant Dam was constructed?
2. How was your business after Friant Dam? Explain.
3. Rate the importance of the uses of the San Joaquin River in order: the water you drink and use, the water used to grow your food, and the water needed to support wildlife.
4. If the restoration project doesn't work, how would it affect your business?
5. As a fisherman, do you think the Friant Dam was good or bad for you? Explain your reasoning.

Connecting Reading to Writing

Discovering What You Think

Activity 15: Taking a Stance and Gathering Evidence to Support Your Claims

As you prepare to write, review the quickwrite you did at the end of Activity 14 and your view regarding the best course of action for California on river restoration. Now review the annotations you made on the two articles in Activity 10, the summary you wrote in Activity 11, and your answers to the thinking critically questions in Activity 12. Does this review change your view on the topic?

Restate your position on river restoration in writing:

Jot down quick notes in response to the following questions:

1. What support have you found for your position?

2. What evidence do you have for that support?

3. Is this piece of evidence a fact or an opinion? Is it an example?

4. If this evidence is a fact, what kind of fact is it (statistic, experimental result, quotation)?

5. If it is an opinion, what makes the opinion credible?

6. What makes this evidence persuasive?

Activity 16: Considering the Writing Task

You will now write an essay on the topic assigned below. Before you begin writing, read the passage carefully and plan what you will say. Your essay should be as well organized and carefully written as you can make it.

In one of the boldest river restorations in the Western United States, a 63-mile stretch of the San Joaquin River will be transformed from a dusty ditch into a fish-friendly waterway under legislation approved Wednesday that ends a decades-long dispute between farmers and environmentalists.

The \$400 million project, approved by Congress as part of a landmark wilderness bill, will increase the amount of water released from the Friant Dam near Fresno into the San Joaquin River. The flows are intended to resurrect the river's salmon fishery, decimated in the years following the dam's construction in 1942.

Kelly Zito "Plan to Restore San Joaquin River Approved."
San Francisco Chronicle, March 26, 2009

Should California spend the money for the San Joaquin River Restoration Project? Why or why not?

In a well-written response, support your position with evidence from the two articles read in this unit. Be sure to support your opinion based on the evidence from the *Fresno Bee* and the *Sacramento Bee*, as well as other information from the project and your own readings and observations. You must quote at least three references in your essay. Also, try to use as many content related vocabulary words and details and you can.

You can begin brainstorming and making an outline of your essay, but do not actually compose until you read Activities 19 & 20 in the next section.

Writing Rhetorically

Entering the Conversation

Activity 17: Composing the Draft—Read Me!

Since you are required to include at least three quoted references from the sources in your essay, it is important to present those quotations effectively and correctly. This means that as a writer, you must use the words of others while at the same time avoiding plagiarism. The frames below will help you prepare your quotations. The parentheses that follow each template are for the author’s last name (only if it is not immediately clear whose words you are quoting) and the page number.

Templates for Introducing Quotations

1. X claims, “ _____ ” ().
2. As the newspaper journalist X puts it, “ _____ ” ().
3. According to X, “ _____ ” ().
4. X himself writes, “ _____ ” ().
5. In his article, “ _____,” X maintains, “ _____ ” ().

6. Writing in the newspaper _____, X complains, “ _____ ” ().
7. In X’s view, “ _____ ” ().
8. X agrees when he writes, “ _____ ” ().
9. X disagrees when he writes, “ _____ ” ().
10. X complicates matters further when he writes, “ _____ ” ().

11. “ _____,” X suggests and further explains, “ _____ ” ().
12. “ _____,” X asserts ().

Activity 18: Negotiating Voices—Read Me!

Using signal words and phrases to introduce the words of others along with your ideas and thoughts helps the reader understand the context while providing a logical and coherent flow to your writing.

Words that signal specific tasks or positions like the ones that follow can improve the organization of your paragraphs.

Words that Signal Listing or Addition of Ideas:	Words that Signal Comparison:	Words that Signal Contrast:	Words that Signal a Cause and Effect Relationship:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• also• another• in addition• furthermore• finally	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• similarly• in comparison	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• in contrast• on the other hand• however• but• yet	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• as a result• consequently• since

You are now ready to write your essay following the guidelines specified in the assignment. Have your completed packet with you as you write and refer often to your notes and annotations. TURN IN YOUR COMPLETED PACKET ALONG WITH YOUR FINAL ESSAY.

Activity 19: Post-Test

Just for fun, let's see what you've learned!

San Joaquin River Delta Project

1. Where does most of California's drinking water come from?
 - a. Rain and snowfall
 - b. The ocean
 - c. Aquifers
 - d. Wells

2. Which of the following accurately describes the Central Valley of California?
 - a. One of the world's most productive agriculture regions
 - b. The driest area in California with a large population
 - c. An empty desert
 - d. The most populated area in California

3. Into which part of California does the San Joaquin River flow?
 - a. Southern California
 - b. Northern California
 - c. Central California
 - d. Coastal California

4. The original purpose of dams was to
 - a. Make a lake for recreational purposes.
 - b. Store water for California residents.
 - c. Give fish a place to live.
 - d. Prevent flooding.

5. Which ocean fish has to swim upstream through rivers to lay eggs?
 - a. Cod
 - b. Bass
 - c. Catfish
 - d. Salmon

6. What region of California has the largest population?
 - a. Northern California
 - b. Central Valley
 - c. Bay Area
 - d. Southern California

7. Currently, most of the water from the San Joaquin River flows to
 - a. Bay Area residents.
 - b. Southern California residents.
 - c. Pacific Ocean.
 - d. The Friant Dam.

8. How does diverting water away from a river for municipal, household drinking purposes affect the river's ecosystem?
 - a. Less wildlife and plants
 - b. Less flooding in residential areas
 - c. More food for the fish
 - b. Stronger ecosystem

9. What and where is the San Joaquin-/Sacramento Delta?
 - a. Area where the San Joaquin River begins to run into the ocean
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 - d. Places where the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers dry up

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 - c. It is one of the most endangered river areas in America
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11. The main reason California Central Valley farmers are losing their farms is because
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 - b. They went on strike to fight for their water allocation.
 - c. The bad economy makes workers scarce.
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