

Reflective Essay

My thesis was written in the time frame of six months (two quarters). I decided to focus on environmental politics due to the many issues that may be addressed. Not until recently was it that people opened their eyes about how a natural disaster could affect us a great amount. According to The United States Geological Survey, a scientific agency of the United States government, there have been eleven earthquakes in the past thirty days. (October 2016) The recent possible “natural disaster scare” was plastered on all of the social media in the month of October and had people of all ages including college students concerned. The concern of the people is that the world will come to an end. However, the topic of natural disasters not only brings up that worry, but it has also called for the rise of research as to how the government responds to natural disasters in the United States.

The efficiency in the responsiveness of the government when it comes to these unfortunate events is overlooked by the everyday person, but not overlooked by educators and researchers. Natural disasters cannot be prevented, but one could certainly prepare for it and hope that the government can respond in a way that benefits all citizens. Addressing the topic will not only educate individuals about an issue on the environment, but also the politics behind it and how exactly politics plays a significant role in this matter. American Politics and Environmental Politics scholars have examined the clear relationship between natural disasters and politics. After taking a step forward, and conducting research, it is clear that natural disasters and how the government responds to these catastrophes is now being frequently discussed about in political science department at Cal Poly Pomona. The research I conduct will contribute to this

literature by furthering the knowledge of the Cal Poly Pomona political science department, and at the same time focus on a particular issue in environmental politics. In addition, a student researching this topic will benefit other students to help realize how this is an issue everyone should look into and be educated about no matter what age.

I conducted a single case study on Hurricane Katrina and interviewed two professional experts on this particular topic. Even though the gathering of the information and data was a long process, it helped answer my main argument and question. Prior inequities do affect the way the United States government responds to natural disasters. I also have a PowerPoint created to inform the public with my argument, question and results.