Legislative/Policy Report and Interview: (130 points)

What? You are expected to complete a short research report (100 points) of approximately 5-7 typewritten pages in length focusing on a current policy proposal, debate, or possibility that addresses an issue or problem on the current public agenda in Oregon.

The big examples here come from the 2003 legislative session. You are welcome to select any serious bill that has been proposed/passed in this session. Your research report would explain what problem/topic the proposed law addresses, how, and why. Your paper would explore the pros and cons of the proposal----what issue does it address? Is this a local, state, national issue? What solution does it offer? In addition, your report would examine support and opposition in the legislature and the wider political environment. Your report would also briefly summarize the process(es) by which the proposal has been developed as well as the process(es) by which the proposal would become official policy. Finally, you would offer your own evaluation of the proposal and of the policy-making process------is the policy wise, appropriate, necessary, etc? Is the process democratic? Legitimate? What do you think? What do you recommend?

Many of you have already selected an appropriate topic for your sustainability papers------if you choose, you may simply continue to the next step in your examination of your topic: what is being proposed or done about this problem? Issue? Debate?

You may select a topic outside of this legislative session. You may want to look at a policy proposal or decision that impacts Oregon but comes from the Federal Government. Policies from local governments, school districts, fire districts, water boards, etc. are acceptable. Also consider initiatives taken by the Governor (promoting trade); state agencies; regional bodies. Be sure to consider topics in A River Lost that may grab your attention---Hanford, Salmon, Columbia Gorge development, BPA, irrigation/water policy.

The main message for you as you think about a topic is this: pick something you are curious about. Use the research assignment as a opportunity to learn more.

How? Your paper should follow the standard MLA format and should be 1.5 or double-spaced. If you need assistance in organizing your paper, visit the “writing desk” in the LRC. Please do not use footnotes. Instead identify the author of a quote at the end of the quotation and list your notes for sources at the back of the paper. You must include a bibliography at the end of your paper. No bibliography? No credit.

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Sources? You must use at least five (5) different sources for your research including at least one electronic source, one print source, and one interview.

Interview (30 points): Your interview should be with a public official, a political activist or a professional involved with the policy issue you are researching. Your interview may be by e-mail, by telephone or in-person. The purpose of your interview is to gather information about your policy issue and about the policy-making process. You must use at least three (3) questions and the information from the interview should be integrated into your research. Include a copy of the questions and answers at the end of the paper.

When?

Paper topics must be selected no later than Monday, May 19 (please turn in

Papers are due in my office no later than 5pm, Wednesday, June 11.