

Assignment #1

FLUORIDATING WATER: SCIENCE IN THE POPULAR PRESS

Arguments about scientific matters appear frequently in the popular press. Readers are presented with persuasive writing on science and technology in newspapers and general audience magazines and newspapers, as well as in publications for more specific audiences. This exercise will help you learn how to read and make use of popular press pieces on scientific and technological subjects, and provide us with a starting point for talking about types of scientific sources and how and why to access them.

Sources

“Fluoride, yes,” *Cumberland Times News*, March 21, 2000.

“Lonely Causes -- Redbait and Switch: The Far Right Warred Against Fluoride; Now It's the Lefties' Turn,” *Wall Street Journal*, Apr 12, 2000.

“Letters to the Editor: Fluoridation is a poisonous fraud,” *Wall Street Journal*, April 20, 2000.

“Rethinking Fluoridation,” *Earth Island Journal*, Spring, 1998.

Read and carefully consider the articles listed above. Then write a letter to the editor of the *Earth Island Journal* responding to the article “Rethinking Fluoridation.” You should address the risks and benefits of water fluoridation incorporating any material or ideas from any of the four sources as you see fit. Give your letter a suitable title. Your letter should reflect your honest thoughts on Sherrell’s article. The maximum allowable length is two pages (double spaced). Your audience is readers of the *Earth Island Journal*.

Bring 4 copies of your letter to class **and** post your letter to our Blackboard site using the digital dropbox. Be sure that the file name is:

Section#_Your last name_fluoride letter

Don’t forget to review the syllabus for format details.