

Paper #1: What do you know about Hurricane Katrina?

Draft due Wednesday, September 9, 2009 in class

Final version due Friday, September 18, 2009 by 4:00 pm

The purpose of this assignment is for you to answer three major questions:

1. What do I know about Hurricane Katrina and its lasting effects?
2. What do I want to learn this semester about Hurricane Katrina and its lasting effects?
3. What is my responsibility when major events like this occur in the United States?

This is a personal paper that reflects your own opinions, so there are no right or wrong answers. However, your views must be well-formed and clearly expressed. Over the course of the semester, your thoughts on all of these topics will almost certainly evolve in a variety of ways.

There are many possible responses the second question, including questions about preparation for the storm; the response of local, state, and federal governments to the initial disaster; which portions of the populations were especially hard hit; how communities have responded to the rebuilding after Katrina; environmental aspects that contributed to the devastation; how funds designated for rebuilding have been allocated; which sectors of the economy have been the focus of economic development; how the effects of a hurricane could be minimized in the future; etc. Rather than giving an encyclopedic list of all possible topics, you should pick two or three that are most interesting to you and address them in some detail.

You will need to do some research to narrow down the list, but since the fourth anniversary of Katrina hitting the Gulf Coast was last Saturday, August 29, you should be able to find articles without too much difficulty. A few newspapers where you might get started are the *Times-Picayune* from New Orleans, the *Sun-Herald* from Biloxi/Gulfport, Mississippi, or the *New York Times*. All of these are available on the web. If you are having trouble finding resources, please let me know.

Here are a few more details about my expectations.

- You should follow the *MLA 2009 Formatting and Style Guide* for your paper. There is a link to the guide from the course homepage.
- Your paper should be at least three pages.
- You will submit an electronic copy through Wheaton onCourse and a hardcopy that is printed *double-sided!*. The printers in the Library are set up for this.
- You need to reference at least two different sources. Be sure to provide proper citations.
- Please, please proofread your paper for spelling mistakes or glaring grammatical errors.
- I will meet with each of you on Tuesday, September 15 to discuss your draft.

If you have any questions before then, please drop me an email.