

Paper #2
Due October 21, 2009

What aspect, or aspects, of the 1927 Mississippi flood disaster is particularly interesting to you?

There are many possible topics, such as the impact of race relations in the Mississippi Delta, the role of the under-reporting by the New Orleans newspapers, the maneuvering of Herbert Hoover, the repercussions of politics on public policy, the significance of the relationship between LeRoy and Will Percy, etc. This is an opportunity for you to pull together ideas from different parts of the reading, focus on one or two topics, and be reflective about what you have learned so far this semester.

There are a few areas that you should be sure to address, although this is by no means a comprehensive list. Your own explorations may take you in other directions as well.

- Briefly explain the facts related to your topic.
- Explain why you find your topic particularly interesting.
- Are there structural changes related to your topic that could have reduced the disaster? Why do you think these didn't occur?
- Discuss any analogies you see with the modern day, excluding the obvious Katrina connection.
- What is your takeaway message?

These are a few important dates to remember:

September 30	Brief outline due that describes your topic(s)
October 9	Rough draft due before you leave for Fall Break
October 14, 15, 16	Individual meetings to discuss your drafts
October 21	Final paper due

Some specific requirements are:

- You should follow the *MLA 2009 Formatting and Style Guide* for your paper.
- Your paper should be at least five 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 three different sources beyond *Rising Tide*. At least one should be from the time period of the flood (the 1920's or 1930's). Let me know if you have trouble finding an appropriate reference.
- Please, please proofread your paper for spelling mistakes or glaring grammatical errors.