

Paper #3 – Putting It All Together
The 1927 Flood of the Mississippi and Hurricane Katrina

Due Friday, December 11, 2009 at 4:00 pm

The motivation for this essay is for you to think about the semester in its entirety and for you to reflect on the connections among the ideas and concepts of the course that *you* see. For example, you could address:

- What human decisions amplified the destructive power of the natural disasters?
- What human decisions amplified the catastrophe in the affected communities?
- What societal and economic factors not only contributed to the calamities but also shaped the nation's response to the disasters?

This should be a personal essay that represents your big picture view of the semester in your own words. In particular, you should respond to the following in your essay:

- What parallels and dissimilarities do you see between these two events? Why were there these differences?
- What were the most surprising or interesting aspects these events to you?
- What is your take-away message for the semester?

Do not give a catalog of the facts, but you will need to give specific examples to support your arguments and claims.

Although not mandatory, I will set aside times on December 3, 4, and 7 to discuss a rough draft of your paper. I'll need your draft at least two days ahead of time in order to review it before the meeting.

Some specific requirements are:

- You should follow the *MLA 2009 Formatting and Style Guide* for your paper, including using proper citations.
- Your paper should be at least seven 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.
- Please, please proofread your paper for spelling mistakes or glaring grammatical errors.