**Water, the Most Essential Resource**

Water is essential for life. It sustains and shapes life on our planet. It provides nourishment for crops that we eat, fills the wide oceans that are teeming with life, erodes mountains and shapes the landscape and even acts as a highway for boats to carry commerce and travel the world. In our time, water has become a subject of great concern. Pollution of water resources has long been an issue. Now, with greater awareness of our ecosystems and the small percentage (2.5%, most of which is locked in ice) that is fresh water that we can drink, access to water and how we use, reuse and dispose of it have come to the forefront of current economic, social, environmental and political arenas. Significant developments with regard to water include the now ubiquitous presence of bottled water in our daily lives. At far greater expense than using a refillable bottle at the tap, bottled water also embodies great expenditure of materials and energy to make the bottles, fill them from some exclusive source, and transport them all over the world and deal with the consequences of billions of empty plastic bottles. Access to fresh water is also an issue, not only where there is drought, but also where political boundaries are held or even redrawn to provide access to water resources for one group of people and not another. Control over water resources can have profound effect on the economic prosperity of a nation and it has been stated that the next series of wars will be fought not for land, but over water. Indeed, in the private sector, the Chairman of Nestle has been quoted as saying “access to water is not a public right.”  Agriculture also has exerted great demand on the use and distribution of water. This has caused legal battles over the use of resources at the same time that runoff from agricultural use contributes to silting of rivers and concentrations of fertilizers and pesticides in lakes, streams and even out into the ocean.

* *Explore the different ways that companies’ bottle water (purified/distilled/spring water). Is bottled water better for you than tap? Compare and contrast the pros and cons of bottled water and tap water?*
* *Clean water is important for all life on Earth. How has climate change, factories, farming, etc. affected our clean water on earth? How can we keep our water clean?*
* *Is water a human right? Should all people be guaranteed access to an easy source of water, or is it acceptable for some regions to have limited access? Should people need to move to make water a reasonable access?*
* *Water usage in the world: How can we appropriately reduce the amount of water usage in America – homes? Day to Day living?*

**Due Date : April 19th**

**Length maximum – 2 pages - MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT YOUR IDEAS – QUOTES, STATISTICS, VERIFIED INFORMATION – This is a SCIENCE based essay, failure to provide evidence will impact your grade!**