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ENGL 2010

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Midterm Portfolio

I made quite a few revisions as a result of the peer reviews I got for my work. Overall, I got positive reviews. The main ideas for improvement for my profile had to do with improving continuity and adding more details. I tried to make the transition from paragraph to paragraph smoother and add more of my own point of view. The main suggestion I got for my website profile was to make the end more interesting. I seemed to lose interest at the end. I tried to add more interesting language and make the description more interesting.

I am progressing toward meeting the goals of this course.

1. Write in multiple genres.- I am learning to write profiles and reviews and through my reading I am learning about other genres.
2. Appropriately adapt strategies of argumentation for a given writing situation.- I am learning, through the website evaluation especially, to form an opinion on an issue and present my opinion with facts to support it.
3. Appropriately adapt style and design for a given writing situation.- I am adapting my writing to be more easily understandable to my peers.
4. Approach reading and research critically and rhetorically, choosing appropriate research strategies for a particular writing task.- I am doing a lot of research, especially for the website evaluation and interviews for the profile.
5. Conceive, draft, and revise many kinds of documents, and manage these processes independently.- All the papers I am writing, I am writing individually and I am revising them myself.
6. Cite sources appropriately for the writing situation, including using an academic system of citation with a high degree of proficiency.- Through my research for each paper, and developing a bibliography for each paper, I am learning MLA.
7. Understand and respond critically to a civic conversation and become a legitimate participant in that conversation.- Through both assignments and my profile I am learning to research a topic and develop an opinion. I am also learning to use my research to support my opinion in a argument or conversation.
8. Work collaboratively on writing tasks with other writers.- The peer review process and discussion groups help me learn to work collaboratively.
9. Edit their writing so that it contains a minimum of surface error.- Through the peer review exercise, I am learning to edit my writing to make it as clear as possible

The Glen Canyon Institute

On October 15th 1956 President Eisenhower pushed a button at his White House desk, instigating the blast that started construction of the Glen Canyon Dam. That action set in motion an enormous building project by the Bureau of Reclamation to create Lake Powell and it also lead to the end the free-rolling life of the Colorado River. By 1963, Glen Canyon Dam was completed and as a result,

186 miles of the Colorado River were flooded. This area was magnificent region that had been proposed as a National Park before WWII.



The 125 major side canyons

of Glen Canyon, containing the heart of the Colorado River were flooded as Powell Reservoir backed up over the next 17 years. David Brower, founder of the Sierra Club, called the loss of Glen Canyon "*America's most regretted environmental mistake.*"

The dammed water of Lake Powell backed up the flows of the San Juan and Colorado rivers and created 1,960 miles of shoreline (more than that along the New England coast). The flooding also destroyed or rendered unserviceable prehistoric, historic and religious sites. The Navajo lost at least two sacred places, one being the place where the Colorado and San Juan rivers met embodied the meeting of two Navajo deities where cloud and rain people were created. The other was Rainbow Bridge, an arch with a span of 278 feet that was said to be male and female holy beings that created clouds, rainbows, and moisture. The waters of Lake Powell are eroding the foot of the Bridge and will eventually lead to its demise. Numerous other historic sites have

disappeared including the Crossing of the Fathers, the fording place on the Hole-in-the-Rock Trail, gold mining sites of the 1880s, 1890s, and early 1900s and rock art panels and homes of the Anasazi. Even the glen in which John Wesley Powell stood in wonder and for which the canyon and dam are named, is covered beneath 500 feet of water. In exchange for these losses, the dam has created one of the largest man-made lakes in the United States. Forecasters during the 1950s estimated that it would have up to a half million visitors per year; now more tourists than that can visit on any given Labor Day weekend.

Overall, I have been quite impressed with the Glen Canyon Institute's website and their



organization as a whole. I am quite familiar with Southern Utah and Northern Arizona and while I have some exposure to and knowledge of the Glen Canyon area, I learned a lot from this website already. They provide a lot of information and a detailed history of the situation. The

website is efficient and easy to use. Finding information, photos, events, the store, etc. are all very easy to find. Making a donation is simple, as is finding out how to join and what you can do to help.

The Glen Canyon Institute was founded in 1996 with the sole mission of “restoring a healthy Colorado River through Glen Canyon”. It has been from its creation and continues to be a leader in the movement to restore the unique beauty of Glen Canyon. Immediately after its creation, the Institute began conducting studies to assess the impacts of the Glen Canyon Dam.

Its results were compiled and published in the Citizen's Environmental Assessment in 2001. It has used the information gathered in the Assessment has been used to help convince politicians, environmentalists and lay people alike to see Glen Canyon as an important environmental issue. It also uses the loss of the prehistoric, historic and religious sites previously discussed to help further their cause.

The creation of Lake Powell has been a controversial one from its beginning. The main conflict comes down to the balance between economic development and environmental protection. The Glen Canyon Institute strongly positions itself on the side of environmental protection. The Institute's Board of Trustees and Advisory Boards are comprised of more than 20 individuals representing a variety wide variety of professional and interests all invested in the protection of Glen Canyon. It includes environmentalists, geologists, political activists, attorneys, environmental writers, historians, engineers, among others. The Institute also maintains allegiances with other environmental groups including the Sierra Club and Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance.

This website's intended audience is anyone interested in environmental protection, specifically that of Southern Utah, Northern Arizona or Lake Powell. The website tries to develop a relationship with its readers by informing them about the situation. The website provides a wealth of information about the history of Glen Canyon, Lake Powell and the scientific information the Institute has produced. It also provides an excellent Frequently Asked Questions section that answers basic questions comprehensively and in a way that is easy for the reader to understand. The organization assumes that readers are



concerned with environmental conservation, particularly that of the Western United States. They also assume, most of the time, that environmental conservation is more important than economic development.

The tone of the campaign is generally straightforward and scientific. This issue lends itself to sounding alarmist and condescending and the website does a good job of avoiding that tone. The website's visual tone is pleasant, earthy and straightforward. It features breathtaking photos of Glen Canyon and earthy color tones. The organization argues that the water level of Lake Powell and Glen Canyon needs to be lowered in order to preserve the natural environment and the prehistoric, historic and religious sites that are in danger. The institute doesn't call for the destruction of the dam all together, but the lowering of the water level. It acknowledges that the dam is important. This is a morally sound argument, but it is difficult to actually achieve.

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