

Activity 18: Considering the Writing Task

You will have 45 minutes to plan and write an essay on the topic assigned below. Before you begin writing, read the passage carefully and plan what you will say. Your essay should be as well organized and carefully written as you can make it.

In one of the boldest river restorations in the Western United States, a 63-mile stretch of the San Joaquin River will be transformed from a dusty ditch into a fish- friendly waterway under legislation approved Wednesday that ends a decades-long dispute between farmers and environmentalists.

The \$400 million project, approved by Congress as part of a landmark wilderness bill, will increase the amount of water released from the Friant Dam near Fresno into the San Joaquin River. The flows are intended to resurrect the river's salmon fishery, decimated in the years following the dam's construction in 1942.

Kelly Zito "Plan to Restore San Joaquin River Approved." San Francisco Chronicle, March 26, 2009

Should California spend the money for the San Joaquin River Restoration Project? Why or why not?

In a well-written response, support your position with evidence from the two articles read in class. Be sure to support your opinion based on the evidence from the Fresno Bee and the Sacramento Bee, as well as information from the group project and your own readings and observations. You must quote at least three references from the two articles.