

Delta State University  
Sociology 421  
Fall 2004

### Writing Assignment No. 12

**Due:** Monday, November 29

**Instructions:** Prepare a two page essay on the topic identified below. Be sure to develop an explanation or argument in your essay. See the link from the course home page for tips on writing an effective essay.

**Topic:** The video "Earth on Edge" highlights projects inspired by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, presented as cutting-edge examples of sustainable development. These projects apply an "ecosystems services" approach, as described in the papers *About the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment* and *Introduction to the Pilot Analysis of Global Ecosystems*.

Assess the value of focusing on ecosystem services as a sustainable development strategy. What is unique about an ecosystems services approach? What are its strengths and drawbacks?