

Delta State University  
Sociology 521  
Fall 2004

### Writing Assignment No. 8

**Due:** Monday, November 1

**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:** In the article "Sustainable development: A free market perspective," Smith notes:

Private institutions and private property effectively harness man's self-interest to advance the public interest. Sustainable development requires that we explore the same options for dealing with environmental problems which we use for other important matters such as food and housing. There is no reason to believe that environmental matters must be handled in a substantively different manner than anything else.

Use the cases provided in the articles "Recasting Wilderness as Open for Business" (Los Angeles *Times*) and "Conservation's Company Plan" (Washington *Post*) to suggest conditions that are appropriate and inappropriate for privatized free-market approaches to sustainable development. Suggest at least three factors that you think interact with private property to create conditions that enhance or detract from sustainability.