

ETHICAL DILEMMAS IN ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS
POLITICAL SCIENCE 365 / ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES 365
MICRO-ESSAY #1

Write a 750-900 word essay on the following topic. Your essay is due on MONDAY January 29 by 4pm in the Google doc folder. Please include your name, a title (not on a separate page), single space, and use both sides of a single sheet. Be sure to use direct quotations from the readings to bolster your argument and to cite the page number in parentheses after the quotation. Finally, be sure to include at least one claim-objection-rejoinder sequence.

Which approach should be the priority in sustainability policy, eco-efficiency or eco-effectiveness? Be sure to define each term carefully.

What is a micro-essay?

Micro-essays are short (750-900) persuasive essays in which the writer explores a specific issue, problem, or puzzle shared by a group of readers. We in this class are your group of readers and your audience. It is best to offer an introductory summary of the shared problem and then launch immediately into your first claim.

In a micro-essay it is important to realize that (1) claims are statements you want to persuade your reader to accept, and that (2) claims need support with evidence or logical inference to be persuasive. In most sentences, the support appears following the word 'because'.

What do I mean by a "claim-objection-rejoinder sequence"?

Technically, a claim is the conclusion of an argument. To be persuasive, it is crucial that you defend your claims with evidence and reasoning. Also understand that many claims about the world which matter to us are **contested** and do not follow straightforwardly. **In fact, each essay you write for this class is designed to feature questions that arise from contested claims.**

Thus it is incumbent on you to indicate to your reader that you understand there is more than one plausible answer to the question under debate, and to include what have learned from the debate or which you consider the central objection on the other side. An objection is just a claim, complete with evidence and reasoning in its support, which offers a reason not to believe a previously articulated claim.

The ideal rejoinder restates the claim in light of the objection—that is, it takes the objection into account, perhaps by showing that its reach is limited, and reworks the claim to make it less objectionable. To be persuasive in most cases, you need to identify the key objection on the other side and to show why, even granted the objection, you still hold to your claim or a modified version of it.