NATURAL DISASTERS

Challenge
Research, synthesize, and effectively write about **ONE** natural disaster. Your essay should focus on the natural disasters’ impact on the people and the environment of that region. This assignment is worth **ONE** test grade.

The essay must include an introduction with a clear thesis, **THREE** body paragraphs with specific supporting details, and a conclusion. You must also use **THREE** reliable sources and properly cite them using MLA format.

Prompt

*Analyze* and *evaluate* the social, economic, and environmental *impacts* your natural disaster had on the region.

***Remember your thesis statement must answer the question directly. In order to make it easy on you, you also need to break it down into three different categories. These three categories will be the three different topics you address in your body paragraphs. For example, one paragraph should be on social impacts, one paragraph should be on economic impacts, and the final paragraph should be on environmental impacts.

Name of natural disaster you will research: ________________________________

Due Date for 5-Paragraph Essay: ______________________________________
SAMPLE ESSAY STRUCTURE GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

Use the following format to organize your essay. A predictable format makes it easier for the reader to extract information from the essay and easier for you to logically organize your thoughts.

I. Start with a well-developed thesis statement that fully addresses the question, takes a position, and provides organizational categories: If possible, use the question to recognize possible positions and as a logical cue as to how the essay should be organized.

II. Create strong supporting paragraphs that contain a topic sentence, specific evidence and interpretive commentary, and a clincher sentence. Focus on the complexity of the question.
   A. Begin the first supporting paragraph with a clear topic sentence that directly answers the question. Make sure that your topic sentence establishes a category under which several specific facts can be examined.
   B. Organize the facts that support your topic sentence in a predictable format: for example, in a chronological or most important to least important format. Be certain that your discussion of the specific factual information both demonstrates knowledge of the material and an understanding of how and why this information supports your thesis. Clearly show how and why the information supports your thesis. Each time you include specific factual information always ask yourself, “So what? How does this answer the question and support my thesis?”
   C. End each paragraph with a clincher sentence that directly ties the paragraph back to the thesis. This allows both you and the reader to refocus on the question before moving on to the next paragraph.

III. Repeat step two as many times as necessary to completely answer the question. For our purposes you need to repeat 3 times.

IV. Create a conclusion that refers back to the thesis, synthesizes the clincher sentences, and revisits the question, “So what?”