**11a Essay**

Throughout all of the articles and videos I found a relationship between them all. This connection has to do with non-renewable energy, especially oil. From requiring these non - renewable resources there comes hydraulic fracturing (or fracking) which is caused by trying to release and collect natural gas from the earth according to the article by Chris Mooney. In this particular article there is an argument that fracking is not the issue to why people are having problems with their water. Instead, concrete from older wells is the cause of unsafe drinking water. In the video with director of the ‘Gasland’ documentary there is the belief that water is getting contaminated due to fracking while searching and receiving oil. People were getting sick, animals were losing hair and losing weight, and the water was flammable. The reading, *Fracking the Marcellus Shale*, discusses the cost of fracking and if it is worth it. It also goes into depth about how hydraulic fracturing causes health and safety issues or not. Drilling for oil is becoming more and more expensive as well. The article, *Peak Oil Production May Already Be Here*, describes how oil is becoming more and more expensive to buy and sell. There is hope from some that believe that the discovery of oil in various undrilled locations has still yet to occur, but there may not enough time for this to happen. Along with the increased price of buying and selling oil this means the depletion of fossil fuels. In Richard Heinberg’s article it says one day there will be no more fossil fuels anymore. This means that there will have to be an alternative, and the human race has yet to figure out a substitute which people will instead utilize.

One of the biggest ideas throughout the article is drilling for oil and its effects on the people of the world. Drilling for oil is not necessarily the safest way to get energy to run things throughout the world because of fracking. Fracking is used to extract oil or gas from existing fissures in the ground and there is some controversy whether this is polluting the drinking water in certain parts of the United States. According to the article, *The Truth about Fracking*, “The problem is that even when proper precautions are taken, pit linings can tear, and in heavy rains the pits can overflow.” Once these pits overflow, the chemicals from the fracking can cause harmful chemicals to enter the water pipelines. As a citizen I would not appreciate this in my community. In the video of the interview all the side effects of the contaminants in the water were very life altering. This one woman was living life “day by day” instead of looking forward into the future. This is not acceptable even if these people are getting paid off by companies to drill on these people’s land. They have been fighting this ever since they found out what an effect it had on them. If this was scientifically checked this would have gone against the precautionary principle which prevents any harm to the public. In this case, however, big businesses and corporations do not care; they only worry about how much money is being put into their pockets. The drilling of oil is also causing the whole world to run out of fossil fuel. While companies and businesses are harming people physically, they are also draining these same people of their money. As the amount of resources on earth is being reduced, the prices of everything purchased is increasing. To fix this problem, author Richard Heinberg suggests the idea of renewable energy. However, when there is a concept which everyone thinks that should work, there most likely will be a downside. Heinberg describes how: “The process of building a renewable energy economy will take decades and require a tremendous amount of investment.” If this problem is not solved soon, there will be a “collapsing economy”. While some people like Heinberg think the human race should be looking for alternative resources, there are others who would think otherwise. From the article, *Peak Oil Production May Already Be Here,* it talks about how there are unexplored areas that have yet to be drilled, and if these prices stay high “unconventional oil” will take its place. There also is the possibility of reducing the amount of oil being used by figuring out if fracking is worth the cost of doing in the first place. The amount of water being used for it is horrendous. The reading, *Fracking the Marcellus Shale* says, “There was a spill of eight-thousand gallons of fracking fluid.” With a spill like this, the big companies and business are basically wasting water when accidents like this happen while chemicals are polluting the water people use on a daily basis.

Once finished reviewing these articles and videos, it made me realize more how much of a problem and effect oil had on our world. It costs too much money and releases chemicals into the water which are extremely harmful to us and the earth. While fossil fuels are useful now, there should be another way to receive energy. Since that has yet to come, the world is going to keep on declining economically and literally. It is important that there should be other options for people to have some form of energy soon.