

Mexico City Assignment

Directions: Choose one of the options below to complete. Use the worksheet below to plan your response

- *Option 1:* Write an email to the producers of PBS NewsHour about their 2014 report on the Mexico City Water Crisis. In the email, argue that the report inadequately presented the causes of water inequality in Mexico City. Present their claims why the inequality exists.
- *Option 2:* Write an original news article that explores the causes of the water crisis in Mexico City and presents your claims as to why the inequality exists
- *Option 3:* Record a podcast or vlog in which you address the causes of Mexico City's water crisis and present your claims why the inequality exists.

PRE-WRITE/PLANNING

- 1) Claim/Thesis about Water Inequality in Mexico City with two supporting arguments:

Water access in Mexico City is unequal because those who live in wealthier districts have better access to water and receive better compensation for water leaks.

- 2) Two pieces of evidence cited from sources with source titles included:

- a) Evidence/Quote 1:

"But even after this is done, there is almost always a shortfall. In theory, that is made up by Cutzamala's reservoirs, but in reality they are of scant help: consumption by wealthy districts in the west - and leaks in between - leave only a trickle more than 150km from the source. The amount of water coming out of the taps mirrors inequality. Pipe pressure matches income levels - both of which go down the further you get from Cutzamala."

Source Title : [Mexico City's Water Crisis by Jonathan Watts](#)

Your own explanation/reasoning/voice describing how the evidence supports your claim:

As the quote explains, water is delivered faster to wealthy neighborhoods than to poor ones, because the pipes in poor districts are often not very well maintained.

- b) Evidence/Quote 2:

"It is not a coincidence that the time it takes to repair a leak is related to poverty and wealth. Those with wealth can respond to scarcity more easily. In the Santa Fe corporate district, many buildings are illegally connected to the Lerma aqueduct."

Source Title: ["Water in Mexico City: The ecological crisis of tomorrow" by Alejandro de Coss](#)

Your own explanation/reasoning/voice describing how the evidence supports your claim:

As this quote explains, those in wealthier districts of the city receive better recompense for water leaks, and they are given water straight from the aqueduct, while leaks in poor districts sometimes take years before they are fixed.

3) Conclusion: What do you want to occur after someone reads/hears your argument?

I want the reader to understand why water is such an important issue in Mexico City and why wealth can oftentimes impact the care you receive.

COMPLETE YOUR ASSIGNMENT ON THE BACK/NEXT PAGE

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Mexico City's Water Dilemma

By Hudson Goodman

Mexico City is facing a water crisis of unprecedented scale, which is having a disproportionate impact on low-income neighborhoods and regions around the city. With a limited water supply, infrastructure issues (e.g., leaks in pipes) that further reduce the available water, and a population of more than 8 million people, the city struggles to deliver water equitably to all of its residents.

The city's water is delivered from two sources, an aquifer hundreds of meters below the city, and the Cutzamala Basin. Because more water is being uprooted from the aquifer than can be replenished, pressure underground has caused parts of Mexico City to sink rapidly. The bowl shaped city sinks roughly 20 inches per year, wreaking havoc on the city's plumbing system. Meanwhile, the Cutzamala, which is drawing water from the Cutzamala Basin, is having a negative impact on the surrounding area. In her book, *The Case of the Indigenous Mazahua Women*, Anahí Gómez writes, "around 27% of the water used in Mexico City comes from the Cutzamala system. This has left the region around Cutzamala with little water." Water from the basin is brought only to the heart of Mexico City, leaving the outskirts of the city with little to no water.

Poor neighborhoods suffer from more water leaks because infrastructure in lower-income neighborhoods is not maintained. In his article, "Water in Mexico City: The ecological crisis of tomorrow," Alejandro de Coss writes, "it is not a coincidence that the time it takes to repair a leak is related to poverty and wealth. Those with wealth can respond to scarcity more easily." Water trucks are part of the government's water distribution strategy in various areas of the city, but it often takes days for the heavy trucks to transport water to the outskirts of the city, leaving residents no choice but to source their own water. Some residents are forced to walk miles to get to wells for water.

In contrast, wealthy neighborhoods receive water straight from the Cutzamala basin and the aquifer, so the water is clean. Leaks in these districts are fixed almost immediately, and they benefit from high water pressure. As Jonathan Watts, a reporter for The Guardian writes, "pipe pressure matches income levels – both of which go down the further you get from Cutzamala."

Mexico City is in the midst of a water crisis. A number of factors contribute to this crisis, including the city's limited water supply, crumbling infrastructure, and an inequitable distribution of water. As a result, poorer neighborhoods in the city and surrounding areas are experiencing a shortage of water, reduced water pressure, and poor water quality. It is unclear when and if this crisis will be resolved, but change is desperately needed.

The End