####What is your opinion of the use of science in conflict collaboration / resolution efforts?

My opinion in the use of science in conflict collaboration is that the public doesn’t respond well to science. Actually, my opinion is that no one in a powerful position either responds to science. I believe this is because there is a lack of teaching in science in high school and college, so most people don’t understand or haven’t been taught basic science principles. Also people have fragile egos, so telling someone they are wrong because of science, when they don’t understand the science, is not effective.

Overall, I believe that science can be useful in a conflict collaboration/ resolution efforts, but it can’t be the only piece of evidence to argue. Most people will value their own feelings and beliefs even when shown scientific evidence they are wrong. Even though providing science evidence is useless I would say it is not the most effective way to end a resolution or change someone’s mind on a topic.

####What is the ‘science’ in your case study that has been used? E.g., studies to support a side, etc.

The science in my case study isn’t exactly fleshed out. There is science indicating that there is a lot of plastic in the ocean and that animals are being affected by the plastic, but there is no science behind how the City of Gainesville will benefit from enacting a straw ban.

####Which of the four roles as discussed in the lecture (more than one is possible) is this science playing (or trying to play) in your case study?  Explain why.

I believe that Science as a Tool of Persuasion is how the science is playing in my case study. I think that this is the main role of science in the City of Gainesville straw ban. The City of Gainesville is still voting on the straw ban, and so there is no final result as of yet. But, for the residents of Gainesville they feel that they do have enough persuasive scientific evidence to convince the City of Gainesville that the straw ban will be effective in reducing pollution along streets and waterways.