**Earth Science Issue 3, Option 1: The Anthropocene**

***ESI 3 is due in the Brightspace assignment folder before class on April 20***

Read the brief article called “What is the Anthropocene and are we in it?” by Joseph Stromberg from Smithsonian Magazine and the recent commentary “How the Concept of Deep Time Is Changing” by David Farrier from The Atlantic.

* <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/what-is-the-anthropocene-and-are-we-in-it-164801414/?no-ist>
* <https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2016/10/aeon-deep-time/505922/>

For all ESI assignments, your response should include **three parts**. The **first part** should be a brief summary of this event/issue (with two creditable sources cited), the **second part** should focus on the **three questions** listed below (with at least two creditable sources), and the **third part** should be a personal response describing how your understanding of the science has impacted your perspective of this issue. Note that this last part is not just a statement of your perspective, but a reflection on how knowing the background science affects your perspective.

**Questions:**

(1) How do we define divisions on the geological timescale?

(2) What supports the idea that we’ve entered a new human-centric epoch?

(3) Why could it be argued that we cannot designate a new epoch at this point?

**Format for all ESI assignments:**

* 1-2 pages, 12 point, Times New Roman font
* Double spaced, no extra lines between paragraphs, begin on first line of page 1
* Put name, date, and course assignment in the header, single spaced (example above).
* There should be no direct quotations in your response.
* Citations should be in APA format, with parenthetical in-text citations (author, date) and a reference list at the end. Reference list does not count toward your page limit. This website shows how to follow this citation style, which is commonly used in the sciences. <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/05/> and <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/02/>
* Check out this website to help evaluate whether your sources are credible: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/588/02/>. Note that groups that have a specific agenda other than education or spreading of science are likely not credible sources of science. News media is fine for summarizing your event, but should not be relied on for scientific information.

**Grading Rubric:**

30 pts - Included everything in the assignment (three parts, answered all questions, formatted correctly, citations/references included, proper length)

30 pts - Content was complete and correct

30 pts - Response is clear and coherent (this means it has to be well written, proofread, etc.)

10 pts - Response was particularly thoughtful and/or creative