**Earth Science Issue 1, Option 2: Conflict Minerals**

***ESI 1 is due in the Brightspace assignment folder before class on Feb 9***

Valuable mineral resources have strongly affected recent violent events in certain areas. Effects are seen not only on the local population but also in the global trade of those resources. If you choose this ESI option, you’ll learn about these conflicts, the mineral resources that drive them, and global efforts to combat these issues.

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) What is the economic significance of “conflict minerals” - e.g. how are they used and what are they worth?

(2) What legal steps have been taken in the United States or elsewhere to regulate so-called “conflict minerals” and how effective have these been?

(3) How have private companies and consumers responded to the issue and how effective have these responses been?

**Format for all ESI assignments:**

* 12 point, Times New Roman font
* Double spaced, no extra lines between paragraphs
* 1-2 pages
* Assignment should begin on first line of page 1
* Put name, date, course assignment in the header, single spaced, (as shown on this document).
* 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/>

**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