

Module 6
Mining, Society, and Decision Making: Gold Mining
Segment 2

Due at the end of class today (or at the start of the next class period)

Segment 2 Question

You are eating lunch in the cafeteria with some friends when one of them looks at a new gold ring on the hand of one of your other friends. S/he says "I can't believe you brought something made of gold! Don't you know how harmful gold mining is to the environment and to people?! Gold mining should be stopped entirely!" Your accused friend looks aghast. After a moment of tense silence glaring at each other, they both look at you for an explanation and opinion, knowing that you have taken a geology class and might know something about this. You are glad that this is the beginning of lunch, as many of these issues are often complicated and rarely one-sided, and you put down your smart phone and begin to explain.

In your explanation, be sure to address the following questions. This should be written as an essay.

- 1) What assumptions—implicit and explicit—is your friend who commented that gold is harmful operating under in this situation? List and explain as many as you can.
- 2) Which assumptions could be checked by simple research? How could s/he do this?
- 3) Explain, justify, and expand on the ways in which your friend has made some strong points in this scenario.
- 4) Explain, justify, and expand on alternative considerations about gold/gold mining/use that your friend did not present.
- 5) Provide your own recommendation (do you agree with your vocal friend that gold mining should be stopped?) and explain and justify your opinion. You may also include additional information or explanations not contained specifically within this gold assignment, but be sure that anything you include is substantiated and is not just a general, unsupported statement.

Logistical Details

- Please type your responses as an essay (not as a list).
- Be sure to include the names of all your group members. One paper per group.
- Be sure that anything you include can be substantiated and are not just general, unsupported statements.
- Be sure that your essay is clearly articulated and formal.
- All group members need to participate. Be sure that information from each of your group members (Segment 1) finds its way into the write-up.
- Use references and citations as appropriate.
- This assignment will be graded on thoroughness, content representation from all group members, neatness/formality, appropriate information and referencing, as well as the appropriate extensiveness of your answers and their rationale.
- Recommended length: Please include complete and well-thought-out and well-communicated answers, rather than worry about a specific length. An estimate might be 2 pages single-spaced (12 point Times font, 1-inch margins) but this will vary based on your writing style.