

## Briefing #2

### Growth, resources and pollution in China

You get an email from a high school friend (who's very fluent in English :)

Hey!

How's Vancouver? I'll tell you about my adventures later, but I need some help right now.

Remember my uncle? Well he remembers you, and he's looking for some help. As you know, he's an adviser to a big man in the [Standing Committee](#).

They are worried about the imbalance among growth, wasted resources and environmental pollution.

He knows that you're studying resource economics, and he wants some outside ideas (too many engineers!) to help his colleagues fix some policies.

Can you write a few pages with ideas on how to reduce waste of water, oil, coal and reduce pollution of air, water and land?

You don't have to say anything about data or laws. We can fix all that.

What we need are ideas that improve efficiency, reduce harm to innocent people (and the environment) AND somehow keep the big polluters happy.

The constraint is that we cannot just spend money. Ideas need to SAVE money OR pay for themselves (tax and transfer?)

Oh, and can you send it soon? There's a big meeting on 2014.03.21, and he needs it by then.

Make it short and clear. He only has 20 minutes to read it in the car before the meeting!

Drinks on me next time!

### Briefing content

Suggest ONE resource problem (water/oil/gasoline/coal consumption or land use)

1. Describe an economic policy to fix that problem
2. You can create regulations or property rights but those MUST then be used with an economic instrument (e.g., prices/markets)
3. Describe the transaction costs of implementing the policy (needed data, enforcement agency, etc.)
4. Name the winners and losers (e.g., drivers or children)
5. Describe how to compensate losers

Then do the same for ONE environmental problem (water, air, land pollution)

### Format

- Two pages, single spaced.
- 1,000 words or less, excluding references
- You CAN put references on a third page. In the text, refer to them with numbers (e.g., [1])
- If you use someone else's words, put them in ""
- Add "Word count: xxx" at the END of your document.

### Instructions for submission

1. Do NOT write your name or student ID inside the document.
2. Save the file as a Word .doc or docx.
3. Name the file with the last four digits of your SFU ID, e.g., ID 372034576 becomes 4576.doc(x)
4. To reduce problems with plagiarism, we are going to use [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com)
  - I have already added your name and email to the turnitin website. Some of you are already enrolled there. Others will receive invitations with a user name and temporary password.
  - Log into turnitin and add this class.
  - Class ID: 7795643
  - Enrollment password: water
5. Deadline: 8:30 am on 20 March (don't be late for class!)

Note: We will deduct 2 points if you fail to follow these directions.

After 20 March, we will send you three briefings for you to review and rank-grade (similar to last time).  
Instructions for peer-review to follow

Have fun!

David

ps/Some things to read...

- The Party tries to adjust: <http://blog.mpettis.com/2013/12/the-politics-of-adjustment/>
- (this article may suggest that a change in accounting -- from GDP to GDP + resource conservation) may help with incentives...  
China's "democracy" : <http://www.economist.com/news/essays/21596796-democracy-was-most-successful-political-idea-20th-century-why-has-it-run-trouble-and-what-can-be-do>
- (The party has internal competition to find good leaders...)
- The Party's declaration of war on pollution: <http://www.economist.com/news/china/21598720-prime-minister-opens-parliament-declaring-pollution-enemy-smog-war>
- The South North Canal may increase resource conflict:  
<http://www.globalwaterforum.org/2014/03/04/diverted-opportunity-inequality-and-what-the-south-north-water-transfer-project-really-means-for-china/>
- Feel free to find your own articles on water/air/land/energy resources/environmental topics.