

Incorporating Wendt Principals Into ESC 115 Physical Geology

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Christianity's success is due in no small part to its early incorporation of storytelling as a means of presenting abstract moral principles. Rather than simply saying, "Love your neighbor as yourself," Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan. Besides talking about God's forgiveness, Jesus told the parable of the Prodigal Son. Such stories remained in the listener's memories far better than a set of rules. Creating such stories for an introductory geology class is my way of trying to achieve the goals of the Wendt Initiative.

I am using two stories that illustrate 1) the importance of honesty in the use of scientific data and 2) the issue of fairness in the use of natural resources. The first story is of Bre-X Minerals, a Canadian mining company that faked data to drive up its stock price. The second is of the 1973 OPEC oil embargo and the resulting easy credit available to third-world despots, for which the world's poor continue to pay today, more than 30 years later. These two stories are attached to this document and are available on my web site, <http://www.geocities.com/daleeasley>.

The stories are incorporated into ESC 115 Physical Geology in sections on minerals and on energy resources. They are used as openings for the material, pulling students into the discussion of both ethics and basic geologic concepts. Testing of the students' understanding of these stories are incorporated into the evaluation of their mastery of the topics through in-class tests.

Bre-X Minerals story: http://www.geocities.com/daleeasley/Essays/Bre_X_Mine.html

OPEC and Third-World Debt: [http://www.geocities.com/daleeasley/Essays/
The_OPEC_Oil_Embargo_and_Third_World_Debt.html](http://www.geocities.com/daleeasley/Essays/The_OPEC_Oil_Embargo_and_Third_World_Debt.html)

Class web site: <http://www.geocities.com/daleeasley/Physical/Welcome.htm>