

W6: Making Better Connections, Sorrell CWSP25

- ◆ As discussed, each BP in Paper #2 needs to revolve around a connection. A connection is an idea you use to link the readings you are talking about + your big idea (thesis) for the paper. You should announce that connection in the topic sentence: the first sentence of the paragraph.
- ◆ You need at least one quote from each reading in each BP. Each quote should be “sandwiched” or introduced/inserted/interpreted (the “3 Is”).
- ◆ One way to make better connections is to use “personal stories,” as you in *TSIS*, Ch. 7.
- ◆ After reviewing the model, go through your paper and at least one meaningful connection and personal story.

Model

People don't care enough about freshwater, but freshwater is a logical place to start combatting environmental issues because it is much more a part of our daily lives for those not living right next to the ocean. There are many reasons why we talk more about the ocean—it is bigger, has more life in it, connects us to more places, and has most of the earth's water—but unless we live on the shore, we likely have much more contact with freshwater in our everyday lives. By largely ignoring freshwater, authors like Johnson risk not reaching as many people with their arguments. In her essay, “What I Know About the Ocean,” Johnson writes, “Emptied and polluted oceans hollow out cultures” (497). While I agree that there is a significant connection between the natural world and culture, how can Johnson ignore the fact that she only addresses coastal communities? Only 15% of the world's population lives by a coast ([Prevention Web source](#)). What about the rest of us? Does freshwater have a connection to our culture? Chen and Murphy focus more on the need for continued environmental action and the encouraging signs of technological innovation as a solution to climate change. They do not focus on the ocean to the same amount as Johnson, but write, “Each of us must find ways to have an impact” (523). I don't know how to solve such an enormous problem, but I do know that I tend to act locally, meaning I go to nearby parks, creeks, rivers, stores, etc. Therefore, I am invested in these places. For example, my children and I often walk, hike, wade, and fish in Crouse Run, a 10-minute drive from our house. I will gladly participate in cleanup efforts at Crouse Run because it is close, and I know it well. Although I lived for 30 years right on the Jersey Shore, the ocean feels more like something I imagine now. A creek I can go to with my son and a fishing rod at a moment's notice is much more likely to spark my interest and optimism. By shifting our focus to freshwater, we might be able to combat some of the problems and attitudes discussed by these authors more effectively.