

Flooding in NJ

Hurricane Irene caused extensive flood damage in NJ. Experts say the flooding is caused by over-building and too much asphalt.

http://www.nj.gov/dep/watershedmgt/nps_program.htm

Problem: Flooding

Time Outdoors

Children (and adults, too) do not spend enough time outdoors, resulting in “Nature Deficit Disorder.”

<http://www.childrenandnature.org/research/volumes/C62/62>

also Google “nature deficit disorder”

Problem: Depression and obesity are only two of the problems that can result from not enough time outdoors.

Jobs Crisis

Corporate profits continue to rise and the wealthiest sector of our society is doing well. Despite all this, the rate of job creation is dismal.

Problem: Too many Americans out of work.

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/04/opinion/sunday/the-jobs-crisis.html?_r=1&hwp=&pagewanted=print

Privacy issues from smartphones, EZPass, etc.

Smartphones, GPS, and other technologies have made our lives more efficient—but at a price.

Problem: Smartphones and GPS track our movement and invade our privacy.

http://money.cnn.com/galleries/2011/technology/1109/gallery.autos_privacy/?hpt=hp_t2

College Tuition

Over the past decade, the state has reduced the amount of funding for higher education, causing students to pick up more and more of the tab with tuition and fees. This is resulting in graduates with high debt. How do we get the state to fund higher education at a higher rate?

Also: student loans cannot be discharged through bankruptcy. See instructor for file on how student loan defaults.

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