Assignment 4

Government Interference with Science

In your notes on the last page is a list of questions you should ask concerning news stories and scientific research. One of the most powerful forces controlling the sciences is government itself. Here is a list of areas where government has interfered with the scientific process, go to the following web site from the Union of Concerned Scientists. Go to the bottom of page 2 to see the assignment.

http://www.ucsusa.org/scientific_integrity/abuses_of_science/a-to-z-guide-to-political.html

The A to Z Guide to Political Interference in Science

In recent years, scientists who work for and advise the federal government have seen their work manipulated, suppressed, distorted, while agencies have systematically limited public and policy maker access to critical scientific information. To document this abuse, the Union of Concerned Scientists has created the A to Z Guide to Political Interference in Science.

L ist for Environmental Protection Agency Libraries

From air pollution to Ground Zero, the A to Z Guide showcases dozens of examples of the misuse of science on issues like childhood lead poisoning, toxic mercury contamination, and endangered
species.

- View alphabetical list
- View by issue area
- View timeline
- View by agency/department

The United States government bears great responsibility for keeping our environment clean and Americans healthy and safe. And while science is rarely the only factor in public policy decisions, this input should be objective and impartial. As the list of examples of political interference in science and the concern from government scientists grows, so has concern from the general public, public interest groups, members of Congress, and the media. Particular concern comes from the scientific community, as scientists know first hand that a strong investment in independent science has served as the foundation of American prosperity and contributed greatly to our quality of life. More than 15,000 of your scientist colleagues—including 52 Nobel Laureates—have spoken out against political interference; urge the president and Congress to restore scientific integrity to federal policy making.

Assignment Government Interference - 30points

There are four areas in which government interference in science is listed on the first page. They are the environment (green), public health (pink), pollution and contamination (orange), and national security and other (yellow). Pick two of these categories and go to a problem which would be listed under this area. Summarize in one or two paragraphs what the story is behind this interference with the scientific process. Give the category, time line and the government agencies involved. This assignment is due at the deadline for unit 1.