

Name: _____ Date: _____

ENV105

Activity 7: E-Waste and Commodity Analysis



The contemporary economy produces increasing masses of “e-waste” – computer monitors, processors, cell phones, televisions, and other goods that, while still functional, are thrown away or occasionally recycled. These typically become hazards, as they contain mercury and other heavy metals that enter waterways and the ecosystem.

Watch the 17 min. video, “E-Waste Hell”:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=dd_ZttK3PuM

Watch the 4 min. CNN video, “Where do Cell Phones Go To Die”:

<http://money.cnn.com/video/technology/2013/05/31/t-china-electronic-waste.cnnmoney/index.html>

Also, watch the 8 min. 2010 Free Range Studios video, “The Story of Electronics with Annie Leonard”:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYpavuE6plg&feature=player_embedded#t=14

To receive full credit, please be **detailed** in your answers, providing examples from your text, the notes and the videos above. Note: Some answers can only be found in the videos—so, be sure to read through the questions before viewing to listen for the answers.

1. What is e-waste?

2. What are the tendencies of capitalism that make such waste necessary?

3. What are some of the externalized costs of production that companies avoid to help keep costs down? Name at least two.

4. What environmental justice issues might arise in the disposal and recycling of these goods?

5. What is extended producer responsibility?

6. Give **four** examples of extended producer responsibility to demonstrate how this can help with e-waste.