

## Panama Wrap-Up

### I. Some General Take-Away Ideas

- As you continue to explore the histories of large-scale engineering projects, you will (hopefully) notice that there are a number of common themes. Can you relate the various Panama transportation projects (road, railroad, canal, etc) to any other projects (from either the past or present)? What are some of the general financial, social, political, or environmental similarities? What are the major differences? Some possible examples:

- Big Dig
- US Interstate Highway System (both initial construction & continued maintenance/expansion)
- Taipei 101
- Egyptian pyramids
- Three Gorges Dam vs. Hoover Dam
- Your favorite project?

- As a future engineer, are there any lessons from Panama Canal that might be useful as you embark on projects of your own?

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**And, for a little fun this weekend....**

### **Evangeline: A Tale of Arcadie**

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

from the 1893 Cambridge Edition (Originally published in 1847)

This is the forest primeval. The murmuring pines and the hemlocks,  
 Bearded with moss, and in garments green, indistinct in the twilight,  
 Stand like Druids of eld, with voices sad and prophetic,  
 Stand like harpers hoar, with beards that rest on their bosoms.  
 Loud from its rocky caverns, the deep-voiced neighboring ocean  
 Speaks, and in accents disconsolate answers the wail of the forest.  
 This is the forest primeval; but where are the hearts that beneath it  
 Leaped like the roe, when he hears in the woodland the voice of the huntsman?  
 Where is the thatch-roofed village, the home of Acadian farmers --  
 Men whose lives glided on like rivers that water the woodlands,  
 Darkened by shadows of earth, but reflecting an image of heaven?  
 Waste are those pleasant farms, and the farmers forever departed!  
 Scattered like dust and leaves, when the mighty blasts of October  
 Seize them, and whirl them aloft, and sprinkle them far o'er the ocean.  
 Naught but tradition remains of the beautiful village of Grand-Pré.  
 Ye who believe in affection that hopes, and endures, and is patient,  
 Ye who believe in the beauty and strength of woman's devotion,  
 List to the mournful tradition still sung by the pines of the forest;  
 List to a Tale of Love in Acadie, home of the happy.

The rest of the poem can be found at:

<http://www.theotherpages.org/poems/books/longfellow/evangeline00.html>

## II. Comments on Assignment 1 Grading

### A. Common Problems

- Too much summarizing, not enough analysis. Don't just rehash what is in the case study; show that you are thinking critically about it. This is not the time for an executive summary (however, don't worry, you will get to write one later)....
- Get to the point! You only have 2 pages, so don't spend so much time with introductions, explaining, talking about things that are not relevant, inserting direct quotes from the case study, etc. In this type of assignment, try to "set the stage" in no more than a sentence or two.
- One of the points of the exercise was to see how you analyzed a case given fairly limited information. Some introduced additional details, which is ok as long as the focus remains on the actual case. However, if you do use outside sources, please cite them.
- Stay on task. If you said you were going to explore social issues, don't start to take extensively about financial issues midway through (or vice versa). Obviously there will be some overlap, but it is your job to emphasize the specific area that you selected.
- Don't assume that you can toss out a handful of details that are somewhat related and your audience will automatically arrive at your intended conclusion. If you are making comparisons, make sure this is clear to the reader. All too often, the main argument gets lost in the narrative. (Try to say too much, but end up saying nothing at all.)

### B. Basically, the grading will be based on:

a) analytical thinking: Dealing with the "hows" and "whys" of changes, rather than just regurgitating the case study - 3 points

b) writing quality/clarity - 3 points

c) staying on topic: If you say you are going to write about social, then you stick to that topic for the entire paper. Relatively free of irrelevant details (aka "fluff"). - 2 points

d) coverage of major time periods (road, railroad, French canal, US canal, present day) - 2 points



Image Source: Carl Martland