WH - Weiss

**Reading 1: COLLECTIVE LEARNING**

1. What are the primary reasons why collective learning has increased dramatically since the Industrial Revolution?
2. Why are there vast differences in the connectedness, power, and wealth among individuals in the modern world?
3. Conceptual Thinking

What are some specific examples of differences in the number of connections or diversity of connections that you see between different parts of the world? How do you explain these differences?

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**The Modern Revolution**

The acceleration of change in the last 250 years has been fast and furious, and the impact of acceleration can be seen all around us. One important impact of this acceleration is the increasing fragility of the biosphere. New technologies have altered human society and transformed our relationship with the biosphere. Scientists and professionals of all types study contemporary life and search for answers about how life has changed and what the future may hold for us.

I would like you to join in this process by searching for news stories about the pros and cons associated with acceleration in the modern era. Use some of the suggested articles Weiss provides below or find ones on your own that highlight new information that you think contributes to a discussion of the Modern Revolution today.

Use the research outline to record your sources and some of the details about what you discover.

**Directions**: Look online or in the library for current news articles related to The Modern Revolution.

1. Find at least three articles and complete the research outline below.

***Here are a couple of places to get started with your research:***

• About That Overpopulation Problem

http://www.slate.com/articles/technology/future\_tense/2013/01/world\_population\_may\_actually\_start\_declining\_not\_exploding.html

• Vast Oil Reserve May Now Be Within Reach, and Battle Heats Up

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/04/us/vast-oil-reserve-may-now-be-within-reach-and-battle-heats-up.

html?pagewanted=all&\_r=0

• Federal Forecast for Climate Change: It’s Getting Hot in Here

http://science.time.com/2013/01/15/federal-forecast-for-climate-change-its-getting-hot-in-here/

• Outlook Grim for Mammals And Birds As Human Population Grows

http://www.newsroomamerica.com/story/371100.html

THE MODERN REVOLUTION Research Outline:

1. Headline / Title:

Source / Date:

Importance to this Threshold:

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Source / Date:

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