

Homework #2: *The Story of Stuff* "Introduction" Questions

Please answer each question below in complete sentences. Use blue or black pen and a separate sheet of paper to complete your work. If you make a mistake, just cross it out or white it out and continue working. Be sure to title your assignment as it is above. (Due in-class 2/23)

1. What does Annie Leonard mean when she calls herself a "systems thinker?" Define the term in your own words.
2. What is the Quaker principle of "bearing witness" and how does that inform the work of Greenpeace and, more specifically, Annie Leonard's work?
3. Why does Annie Leonard argue that problems "can't be solved in isolation?" Do you agree? Why or why not?
4. What is the most important insight Annie Leonard discovered after she realized that the Earth's ecosystems are intimately linked with the human economic system?
5. How can you tell that Annie Leonard's book provides reliable, fact-based information rather than hyperbolic opinion?
6. How does Annie Leonard argue that the economy will kill the planet? And why should we care?
7. What "important facets of reality" does GDP leave out?
8. Why is our current goal of steady GDP growth unsustainable? What does Annie Leonard argue is a better goal for the economy than growth?
9. Why can't problems "be solved from within the same paradigm in which they were created?"
10. Identify and quote Annie Leonard's thesis (goal) in composing this book. In other words, what does she hope readers will get from her book?