



Angela's Finished Essay

After proofreading and formatting her essay, Angela added a heading and page numbers. She also added more documentation and a references page at the end. As assigned, she omitted the title page and abstract.

Complete details are supplied in the heading.

The title is changed. The warning is emphasized with red print.

An appropriate font and type size are used.

Clean Water Is Everyone's Business 1

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English 101

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Clean Water Is Everyone's Business

Warning: City tap water is polluted with animal waste. Using the water for drinking, cooking, or bathing could cause sickness or death.

According to the Sierra Club, run-off pollutants from farm sites are steadily seeping into our streams, lakes, reservoirs, and wells. Because much of our drinking water comes from these resources, warnings like the one above are already posted in a number of U.S. and Canadian communities, and many more postings might be needed in the future (Sierra Club, 2005). As the Sierra Club argues, the pollution and related warnings are serious, and failure to take them seriously could be deadly. For example, a few years ago the citizens of Walkerton, Ontario, learned that the water that they believed to be clean was tragically poisoned.

The events in Walkerton began on May 12, 2000, when heavy rains washed cattle manure into the town well. The

Title and page number are used on each page.

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manure contained the bacteria commonly called *E. coli*. While *E. coli* is harmless to cattle, it can make people sick. Seven days after the heavy rains, people began calling public health officials to complain of nausea and diarrhea. It wasn't until May 21 that the townspeople were advised to boil their drinking water. The warning came too late. Two people had already died, and more than 2,000 were ill (Wickens, 2001).

Several factors contributed to the tragedy in Walkerton, including human error. First, according to *The Edmonton Journal*, a flaw in the water treatment system allowed the infested water to enter Walkerton's well (Blackwell, 2001). Even after the manure washed into Walkerton's well, the chlorine should have killed the deadly bacteria. In Walkerton, the Public Utilities Commission was responsible for overseeing the testing and treating of the town's water, but they failed to monitor it properly ("Walkerton's water-safety," 2000). Apparently, shortcuts were taken when tracking the water's chlorine level, and as a result, some of the water samples were mislabeled. There was also a significant delay between the time that the contamination was identified and the time it was reported.

Once Walkerton's problem was identified, the government acted quickly to help the community. In its December 7, 2000, edition, *The Edmonton Journal* reported that a \$100,000 emergency fund was set up to help families with expenses. Local businesses donated bottled water for drinking and containers of bleach for basic sanitizing and cleaning. In addition, the

The writer continues to give credit throughout the essay.

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Provincial Clean Water Agency restored the main water and sewage systems by flushing out all of the town's pipes and wells. Seven months after the water became contaminated, the ban on drinking Walkerton's water was finally lifted.

As the Sierra Club warns and the citizens of Walkerton learned, water purity is a life-and-death issue. Fortunately, both the United States and Canada have been addressing the problem. For example, since 2001, more states and provinces are tightening their clean-water standards, more communities are monitoring their water quality, and more individuals are using water-filtration systems, bottled water, or boiled tap water. However, a tragedy like that in Walkerton could happen again. To avoid such horror, all of us must get involved by demanding clean tap water in our communities and by promoting the policies and procedures needed to achieve that goal.

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The writer restates her thesis in the last sentence.

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References

Sources used
are listed
correctly, in
alphabetical
order.

- Blackwell, T. (2001, January 9). Walkerton doctor defends response. *The Edmonton Journal*. Retrieved April 7, 2005, from <<http://edmontonjournal.com>>.
- Sierra Club. (n.d.) Water sentinels: Keeping it clean around the U.S.A. Retrieved April 5, 2005, from <<http://sierraclub.org/watersentinels/>>.
- Walkerton's water-safety tests falsified regularly, utility official admits. (2000, December 7). *The Edmonton Journal*. Retrieved April 2, 2005, from <<http://edmontonjournal.com>>.
- Wickens, B. (2000, June 5). Tragedy in Walkerton. *Maclean's*, 113(23): 34-36.



Writing Activities

1. Review Angela's writing process. How does it compare with your own writing process on a recent assignment?
2. Reread the new opening and closing that Angela drafts in her second revision (112-113), and consider how they strengthen her essay. Then analyze the opening and closing of one of your own recent essays and revise both as needed.
3. Review the peer-editing instructions in "Revising Collaboratively" (pages 79-80). Then reread the reviewer's comments in the margins of Angela's second revision (pages 112-113). Do the comments reflect the instructions? Explain.