

Since I began writing this essay, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill has been pouring oil into the Gulf of Mexico. Every day it continues, we are losing more and more of the natural beauty of the area. The oil spill is a living reminder of the downside of

While it may remain unknown the exact reasons behind the explosion that led to the oil spill, it can be said that the country's dependence on oil led to the type of situation where this could happen. My entire life every president has promised to make oil dependency a top priority in their administration and yet nothing has been done. People have known for a long while the negative consequences that come from oil making up a majority of our energy consumption; the environmental damage, the overall financial cost, and the delicate foreign policies. The age of oil is coming to the end and we should, as a country, take a leading role in the future.

This problem is so large it cannot be handled by any single person. The government will have to take a lead role in the solutions. The military is the largest consumer of oil in the country. It seems it would be most beneficial for a more efficient and less costly solution. Military technology and civilian technology have revolutionized each other. We need to increase the efforts and funding of military research and development in finding a solution the energy crisis. We recently saw a government program that did have a positive effect on oil consumption, the "Cash for Clunkers" program. Almost every car company is raising the average miles per gallon, per government mandate, and producing a hybrid car. The "Cash for Clunkers" program should be reinstituted in order make these cars more accessible to the people.

There are many ways the everyday citizen can help lessen the use of energy in their lives. The simple changing of the light bulbs we use can have an impact.

The energy crisis is so large that the solution will not be easy but the benefits will be tremendous. As the founders of the new "green" technology, we will be able to export this business to the rest of the world. As the economic situation remains uncertain, this untapped sector can be a new source of industry. New energy techniques will in the long term be more cost efficient. The United States would not have their hands tied in foreign matters overseas.

New Tech

- wind  
- solar

- NG

- nuclear

- Europe building this

- new safety over last 30 years?

- 27 states are build but need

Solar and other

better transportation

having energy in mind when building and development

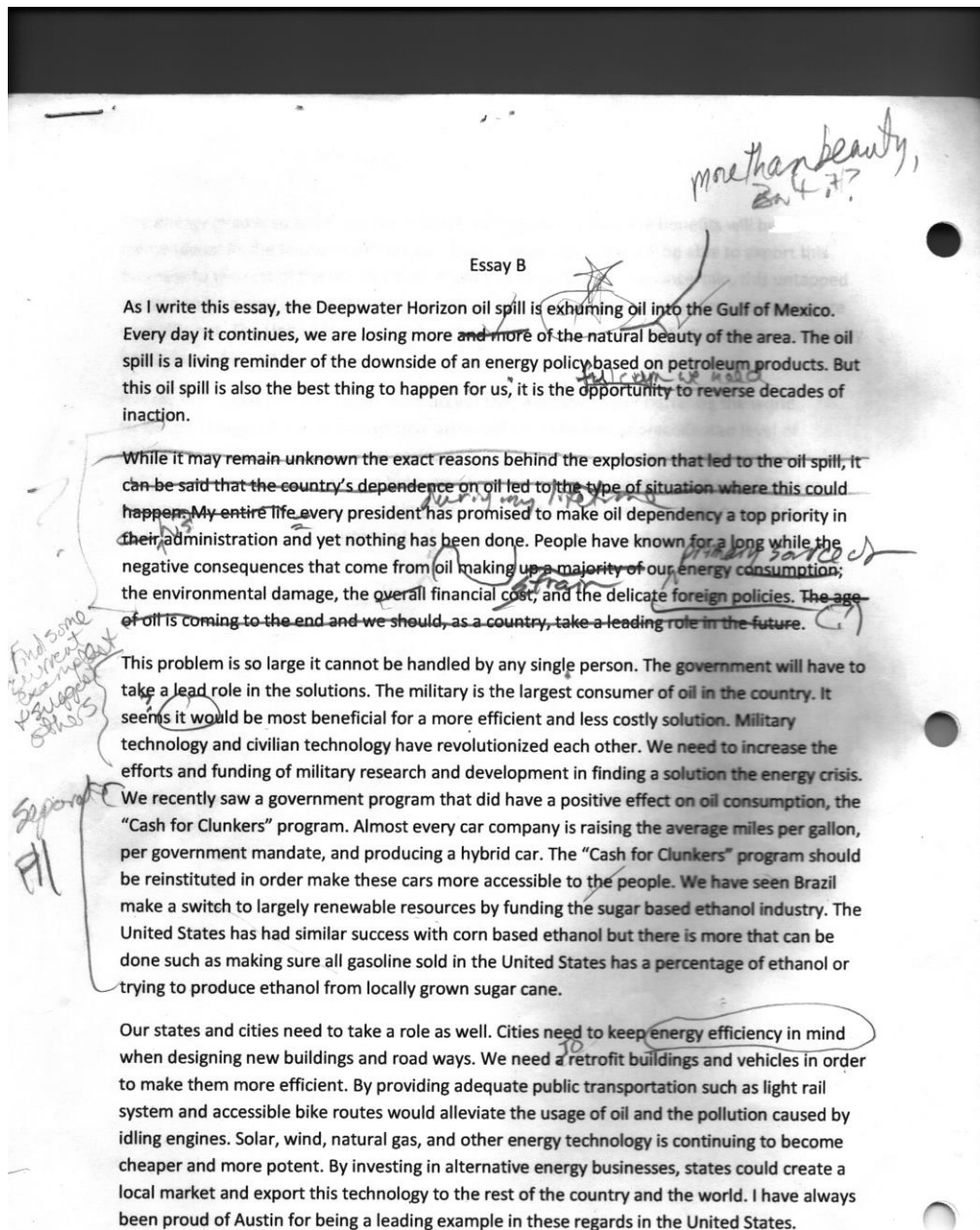
ground of building for its value

**Comment [j1]:** This is an Admissions/Transfer Essay, submitted to UT-Austin. The participant chose to write about "an important issue," in this case environmental destruction and what to do about it.

The writer recently graduated with a degree in Political Science from UT-Austin.

FIRST DRAFT—We're figuring out what the essay is about. After review, the most promising points are to "push Military R&D" and "Social. 'lifestyle' programs" that encourage recycling efforts.

It's not a full page yet. The scribbles are our notes for making the next draft.



Comment [j2]: SECOND DRAFT.

Now we are making an essay. I am challenging the writer's language and ideas.

We are deleting most of the second paragraph. We are busting out the last portion of the third paragraph as its own topic.

## Essay B

As I write this essay, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill is expurning oil into the Gulf of Mexico. Every day it continues, we are losing more of the natural majesty of the area. The oil spill is a living reminder of the downside of an energy policy based on petroleum products. But this oil spill is also the best thing to happen for us; it is the fulcrum we need to reverse decades of inaction.

During my lifetime, every president has promised to make oil dependency a top priority in his administration and yet nothing has been done. People have known for a long while the negative consequences that come from oil being our primary source of energy consumption: the environmental damage, the financial strain, and the delicate foreign policies. The age of oil is coming to the end and we should, as a country, take a leading role in the future.

This problem is so large it cannot be handled by any single person. The government will have to take a lead role in the solutions. The military is the largest consumer of oil in the country. It would be most beneficial to them for a more efficient and less costly source of energy. Military technology and civilian technology have always revolutionized each other. Individual branches of the military are working on the problem but it is not enough. We need to increase the efforts and funding of multi-branch military research and development working together to find a solution the energy crisis. The military can continue to make their energy consumption more efficient by retrofitting non-combat vehicles and military housing that supports soldiers and their families.

We recently saw a government program that did have a positive effect on oil consumption, the "Cash for Clunkers" program. Almost every car company is raising the average miles per gallon, per government mandate, and producing a hybrid car. The "Cash for Clunkers" program should be reinstituted in order make these cars more accessible to people. We have seen Brazil make a switch to largely renewable resources by funding the sugar based ethanol industry. The United States has had similar success with corn based ethanol but there is more that can be done such as making sure all gasoline sold in the United States has a percentage of ethanol or trying to produce ethanol from locally grown sugar cane.

Our states and cities need to take a role as well. Cities need to be energy efficiency when designing new buildings and road ways. We need to retrofit buildings and vehicles in order to make them more efficient. By providing adequate public transportation such as light rail system and accessible bike routes would alleviate the usage of oil and the pollution caused by idling engines. Solar, wind, natural gas, and other energy technology is continuing to become cheaper and more potent. By investing in alternative energy businesses, states could create a local

## Comment [j3]:

THIRD DRAFT: I am pushing for specifics on the military topic. The writer's exploration brings up a new topic—corn-based ethanol versus Brazilian sugar ethanol.

See the next page of this draft where we outline the new material.



market and export this technology to the rest of the country and the world. I have always been proud of Austin for being a leading example in these regards in the United States.

The energy crisis is so large that the solution will not be easy but the benefits will be tremendous. As the founders of the new "green" technology, we will be able to export this business to the rest of the world. As the economic situation remains uncertain, this untapped sector can be a new source of industry. New energy techniques will in the long term be more cost efficient. The United States would not have their hands tied in foreign matters overseas by being dependant on their oil.

It is my firm belief that each of us must accept the responsibility of bettering the world. However, change cannot occur without sustained effort and an unprecedented level of commitment. That is why we must restructure our own lives in some ways to accomplish this noble goal. We need to imagine a bold, new future without losing sight of the realities around us. That is the key. Education, participation, ideas, and enthusiasm will all be needed to turn a dark moment in America's history into the beginning of a new chapter.

I Petition  
Military  
Corn Industry  
Corn is sugar  
Brazil  
III "Green" Diplomacy  
Solar Energy  
as military export

**Comment [j4]:**

THIRD DRAFT, page 2

We've decided to drop the (boring, preachy, and overly general) paragraph about cities and states. Now we are focused on 1) Military R&D ; 2) Alternative Fuels ; 3) "Green Diplomacy"

## Essay B

As I write this essay, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill is flooding oil into the Gulf of Mexico. Every day it continues, we are losing more of the natural ecosystem of the area. The oil spill is a living reminder of the downside of an energy policy based on petroleum products. But this oil spill is also the best thing to happen for us; it is the fulcrum we need to reverse decades of inaction.

During my lifetime, every president has promised to make reducing oil dependency a top priority in his administration and yet nothing has been done. People have known for a long while the negative consequences that come from oil being our primary source of energy consumption; the environmental damage, the financial strain, and the delicate foreign policies. Now with the Deepwater Horizon as its parting shot, the age of oil is coming to an end.

*How are we going to answer this challenge? With consumer #1*  
~~This problem is so large it cannot be handled by any single entity. The government will have to take a lead role in the solutions. The military is the largest consumer of oil in the country. It would be most beneficial to them for a more efficient and less costly source of energy. Military technology and civilian technology have always revolutionized each other. Individual branches of the military are working on the problem but it is not enough. We need to increase the efforts and funding of multi-branch military research and development working together to find a solution the energy crisis.~~  
 In 2005, the Guantánamo Bay naval base made news of a different sort by construction wind turbines on base to meet their energy needs. This effort ended up costing less tax payer money and reduced the use of oil on base at the same time. The military should continue to make their energy consumption more efficient by retrofitting non-combat vehicles and military bases that supports soldiers and their families.

We cannot rely on one organization to solve the energy crisis.

The energy crisis is so large that the solution will not be easy but the benefits will be tremendous. As the founders of the new "green" technology, we will be able to export this business to the rest of the world. As the economic situation remains uncertain, this untapped sector can be a new source of industry. New energy techniques will in the long term be more cost efficient. The United States would not have their hands tied in foreign matters overseas by being dependant on their oil.

It is my firm belief that each of us must accept the responsibility of bettering the world. However, change cannot occur without sustained effort and an unprecedented level of commitment. That is why we must restructure our own lives in some ways to accomplish this noble goal. We need to imagine a bold, new future without losing sight of the realities around

*Conclusion: Green Diplomacy*

Comment [j5]: DRAFT FIVE

*Example 2  
Example 3*

*King  
Corn  
Brazil  
model  
us  
Corn  
model*

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During my lifetime, every president has promised to make reducing oil dependency a top priority in his administration and yet nothing has been done. People have known for a long while the negative consequences that come from oil being our primary source of energy consumption; the environmental damage, the financial strain, and the delicate foreign policies. Now with the Deepwater Horizon as its parting shot, the age of oil is coming to an end.

How are we going to answer this challenge? With help from our number one consumer of oil – the United States armed forces. The military is the largest consumer of oil in the country but also the largest buyer of biodiesel as well. There are those within the organization that see alternative fuels as the future. In 2005, the Guantanamo Bay naval base made news of a different sort by construction wind turbines on base to meet their energy needs. This effort ended up costing less tax payer money and reduced the use of oil on based at the same time. With the air force being the largest consumer of oil within the military, they are taking center stage. Nellis air force base installed photovoltaic arrays that supply one third of the base's energy needs. Recently the air force announced new plans to further the development and use of solar panels but it is not all good news. All new air force planes that will be in use until 2030 will use oil as their primary source of energy.

The energy crisis is so large that the solution will not be easy but the benefits will be tremendous. As the founders of the new "green" technology, we will be able to export this knowledge to the rest of the world. This new business potential would open the door for green diplomacy. Our hands would not be tied in foreign matters by a dependence on resources. The United States and military would be seen in a new light for years to come. But these are not the only reasons to change our energy policy. A decrease in our dependency and use of oil will be beneficial to the country in the long term. New energy techniques will be more efficient and cost less. As the economy is uncertain, green technology would provide thousands of jobs and an untapped sector for industry.

It is my firm belief that each of us must accept the responsibility of bettering the world. However, ~~change cannot occur without sustained effort and an unprecedented level of commitment.~~ That is why we must restructure our own lives in some ways to accomplish this noble goal. We need to imagine a bold, new future without losing sight of the realities around us. That is the key. Education, participation, ideas, and enthusiasm will all be needed to turn a dark moment in America's history into ~~the~~ beginning of a new chapter. *a new*



## The Good, the Bad, and the Oily

As I write this essay, the Deepwater Horizon is flooding oil into the Gulf of Mexico. Every day it continues, we are losing more of the natural ecosystem and beauty of the area. The oil spill is a living reminder of the downside of an energy policy based on petroleum products. But this oil spill is also the best thing to happen for human life on this planet; it is the fulcrum we need to reverse decades of inaction.

During my lifetime, every president has promised to make reducing oil dependency a top priority in his administration and yet nothing has been done. People have known for a long while the negative consequences that come from oil being our primary source of energy consumption; the environmental damage, the financial strain, and the delicate foreign policies. Now with the Deepwater Horizon as its parting shot, the age of oil is coming to an end.

How are we going to answer this challenge? With help from our number one consumer of oil – the United States armed forces. The military is the largest consumer of oil in the country but it's also the largest buyer of biodiesel. Many leaders see alternative fuels as the key to future operations. Most people think about terrorism and torture when they hear about Guantanamo Bay, but the naval base made news of a different sort recently by constructing wind turbines to meet their energy needs. This effort ended up costing less taxpayer money and reduced the base's use of oil at the same time. Nellis Air Force base installed photovoltaic arrays that supply one-third of the base's energy needs. Is it naïve to imagine a military that creates instead of destroys.

Recently the Air Force announced new plans to further the development and use of solar panels but it is not all good news. All new Air Force planes--which will be in use until 2030--will use oil as their primary source of energy.

The energy crisis is so large that the solution will not be easy but the benefits will be tremendous. New energy techniques operate more efficiently and cost less. In the midst of an unstable economy, green technology will provide thousands of jobs and an untapped sector for industry. But these are not the only reasons to change our energy policy. As the founders of the new "green" technology, we will be able to export this knowledge to the rest of the world. This new business potential would open the door for green diplomacy. Our hands would not be tied in foreign matters by a dependence on petroleum resources. The United States and its military could be seen as more of a benefactor by other countries and less a tool of imperialist aggression.

Each of us must accept the responsibility of bettering the world. That is why we must restructure our individual lives as well as our institutions to accomplish this noble goal. We need to imagine a bold, new future without losing sight of the realities around us. That is the key. Education, participation, ideas, and enthusiasm will all be needed to turn this dark moment in America's history into a new beginning.

## Comment [j7]: FINAL DRAFT!

We've got us a nifty title, and a well-structured essay that presents a problem, establishes its significance, and explores some possible solution.

The writer recently graduated with a degree in Political Science from UT-Austin.

Of course he thinks this is "terrible" now, but at the time it was just what we needed.