THE MISSISSIPPI FLOOD

During the summer of 1993, the Mississippi River and many of its tributaries overflowed their banks. Thousands of people were evacuated. Seventeen people died. The flood destroyed billions of dollars worth of property and crops.

Old rivers such as the Mississippi flood regularly. The floodwaters deposit rich sediment along the banks, in areas known as floodplains. The rich soil makes floodplains ideal for growing crops.

The federal government has spent a great deal of money building flood-control projects along the Mississippi River.

Questions: Who Should Pay for Property Damage on a Floodplain?

Issues to Consider:

1. Do you think it is possible to live along a floodplain without being affected by the natural flooding of the river?

2. Do you think the government should pay for help areas build along a floodplain? Why or Why not?

Assignment: Write an essay that is between 1 and three pages supporting your stance on this issue.