Each student will be required to participate in one group analysis. Because of the unanticipated large class, we are adding 3 groups to the pool. They will consider policy responses to the recent terrorist attacks: foreign policy, domestic policy, and considerations of privacy in the wake of these reactions. These groups will make their presentations on December 5. There will still be 12 groups considering the water issue in California. Each group will be expected both to prepare a written paper about the area and make a presentation to the class.

Students are encouraged to divide the workload among themselves, but they are free to decide as a group how they wish to make this division. For example, some may prefer to divide the work by function—research, writing, and presentation. Others may divide their topic into smaller issue areas and do all of the research, writing, and presenting for that narrow area. However, a record of individual contributions should accompany the paper. All students in a given group will receive the same grade unless the group recommends otherwise. Students must decide which issue they wish to analyze by September 21. The options are:

1. Defining the Issue: What is the basic problem? (emphasis on water facts, definition of terms like riparian rights, overview of the problem—supply, quality, distribution)
2. California’s constitution and basic water legislation (Two sections of the Constitution are devoted to water; what basic rights does the Constitution confer? Have they changed over time through legislation?) The Legislative Analyst’s Office (http://www.lao.ca.gov/analysis_2001/analysis_2001_contents.html) is a good source of information.
3. The Federal role in California’s water policy (The federal government’s role dates back at least to the 1930s water projects, although CalFed is the official institutional support today. LAO has written on this relationship.)
4. Attitudes of "the people" toward water (Public attitudes may be reported in newspapers. There are also indexes in the Library to poll results.)
5. Role of the media in defining the water problem (Students could divide themselves by newspaper—for example, covering the Modesto Bee, the Sacramento Bee, the Los Angeles Times, and even the New York Times. Coverage could also be broken down by date, with some covering recent reporting; others covering important dates in the evolution of the water issue.)
6. Interest groups involved and their role in policy making (There are so many groups involved, students could group themselves by type of interest: farm, environmental, developers, etc. Local governments, including counties, may also have positions on California’s water policy as they are directly involved in ensuring water quality.)
7. California’s political parties and water (Some positions may appear on web pages or party documents; other information may be gleaned from legislative committee documents. In addition, positions of candidates like governor for election.)
8. Role of the California Legislature (There are several committees in both the Senate and Assembly with responsibility for various aspects of water policy. The focus here should be the institutional role of these committees and major actions rather than partisan debates.)
9. Role of the Governor (There are many references to water on Governor Davis’ web page, although the institutional role of the governor also pertains.)
10. The California bureaucracy and water (What agencies are responsible for administering water policy and what kinds of things are they responsible for carrying out? Here, state agencies as well as counties and municipalities could be covered. The Turlock Irrigation District might be a special focus.)
11. The California courts and water (Have there been any suits over water? What were the basic issues and how have the courts decided the issues? You might include the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision(s) as well.)
12. Whose rights to water? (This group would concentrate on the idea of water rights and the dilemma between water as private property and water as a collective good. The group might also gain information from some of the findings of other groups.)

New Groups
13. Foreign policy changes in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks.
14. Domestic policy changes in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks.
14. Privacy rights and the possible consequences of reaction to the September 11 terrorist attacks on the U.S.

There are several research organizations with publications available on the web. Among them are:

Public Policy Institute of California (ppic.org)
Hoover Institute of Stanford (hoover.org)
Rand Corporation (ca.rand.org)

And the Library provides access to numerous databases, among them:
Congressional Quarterly Researcher
CQ Weekly Reports
Lexis-Nexis Congressional Universe & Academic Universe
Expanded Academic ASAP