Worksheet 2: Critical Thinking
Week 4

1. (5 points) Human civilization is beginning to experience a shortage of fresh water, which is likely to get much worse over time. You have probably heard about the importance of conserving water for as long as you can remember. Water scarcity is a source of political and social instability in many countries, and is likely to lead to warfare in the future.

In November 2009, NASA scientists announced that the Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite (LCROSS) mission had discovered a surprisingly large amount of water on the Moon.

a) Why will the LCROSS discovery have no effect on the fresh water situation on Earth? (3 points)

b) What effect does the Obama Administration’s cancellation of the Constellation Program have on the situation described above? (2 points)
2. (3 points) This winter has seen incredible storms in some parts of the U.S. Many major cities have received record amounts of snow, and there was at least one day when there was snow in all 50 states*. Why is the extra-cold, extra-snowy winter of 2010 not evidence against global warming?