AA260 – Sustainable Aviation  
Lecture 3: Discussion Topics

Introduction  
Today’s session is meant to be a discussion of a number of different topics that have been covered so far to generate further questions, ideas, term paper suggestions, etc. It is alright to generate questions for which we do not yet have answers, and to formulate simple plans to obtain better answers to our questions.

Some Topics/Questions for Discussion

• Given the various kinds of environmental impact described so far, which do you think are most pressing/important today and why? Tomorrow? In 10 years? In 30 years?
• There is an interesting contrast between two documents on our web page: (1) Report to the United States Congress: Aviation and the Environment, and (2) Clearing the Air: The Myth and Reality of Aviation and Climate Change. Both reports quote numbers/facts from their own perspectives. How would you go about finding out which are more accurate. For example:
  o True magnitude of the improvements in fuel burn efficiency since 19XX.
  o True contributions of aviation to global climate change.
  o Relative importance of environmental impact of aviation vs other forms of environmental impact from human activities.
• What are the agendas behind the statements that are often made about aviation’s environmental impact (both for and against) and how can you cut through the noise?
• Are the statements about the economic benefits of aviation accurate?
• Are the recommendations of the “Aviation and the Environment (Dec 2004)” the most pressing ones that you would agree with? If not, which others would you put forward?
• What are your thoughts on how information and perceived facts are used?