Paper Discussion 4 – In class on Wednesday, November 21 with assignments before and afterwards

The fourth paper is actually two short articles that discuss the shrinkage of the Mississippi delta

1. Drowning of the Mississippi delta due to insufficient sediment supply and global sea-level rise by M. Blum and H. Roberts (Nature Geosci., 2, 488-491, 2009).
2. Is it feasible to build new land in the Mississippi River delta by W. Kim and D. Mohrig (EOS, 90(42) 373-384, 2009)

Before the Class

Read the papers and answer the following:

(1) Briefly describe the factors that are causing the drowning of the Mississippi Delta.

(2) What is an engineering avulsion (discussed in the section “Fixing a Drowning Delta in the second paper)?

After the Class

(3) Describe some of the uncertainties in estimates of rate at which the delta can be grown.

(4) State briefly the primary conclusion of each paper. Do they disagree? Explain your answer.