

Safe Drinking Water is a **Right, Not a Privilege**

IWL Policy Tracks: **Environment,
Human Rights, Politics & Government**

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The Leadership Scholars Certificate Program is a two-year selective, interdisciplinary certificate program that prepares Rutgers undergraduate women to be informed, innovative, and socially responsible leaders.

Leadership Scholars design and implement social action projects to expand their understanding of issues and problems and to develop leadership skills.

This project gives Scholars the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained about leadership, advocacy, and social change with the practical and experiential knowledge they have developed about a particular policy issue or problem through the field site placement. It also further develops leadership skills by giving undergraduates the opportunity to *practice* leadership *through* action.

To find out more please visit the Institute for Women's Leadership's website at <http://iwl.rutgers.edu>.

Why Water Intrigues Me

On the Raritan River (Spring 2019)



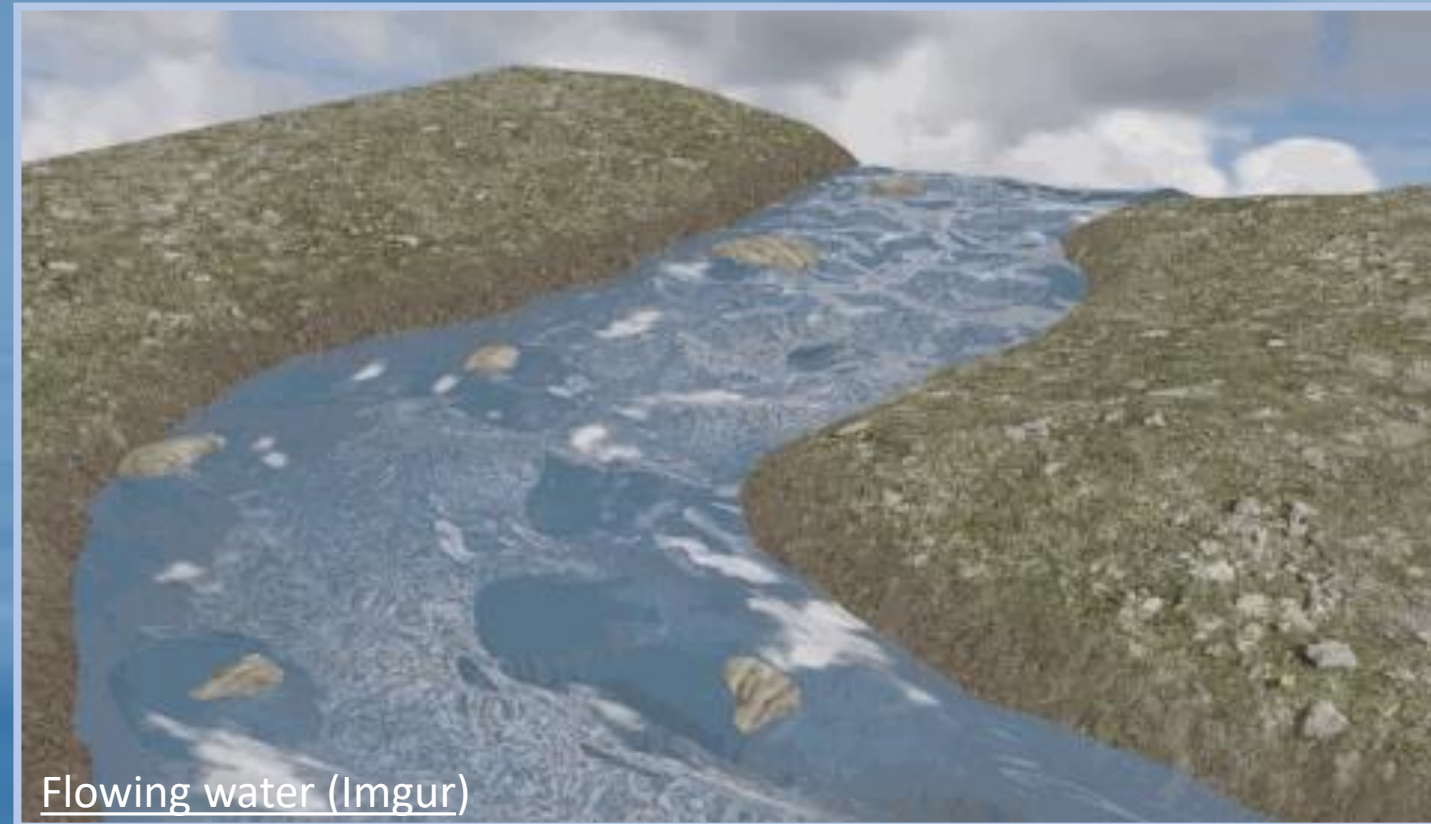
A surreal painting. At the top, a large, glowing blue water drop contains a small globe of the Earth. Below it, a large, textured hand reaches down from the top, framing a scene. In the center, a woman in a blue dress sits on the ground, holding a young child. The background is a lush, green landscape with trees and flowers. The overall color palette is dominated by blues, greens, and yellows.

What's the Big Deal about Water?

783 million people on this planet don't have enough clean water! ([The Water Project](#))

Purpose of Project

- Address lack of water quality awareness
- Animated YouTube video that discusses the prevalence of common water contaminants in New Jersey
- First-person perspective
- Visual aid
- Includes advice for appropriate water filters and testing kits



[Flowing water \(Imgur\)](#)



Audio sample

Conceptual Foundations

- Inequality is rampant
- Environmental justice needs a bigger seat at the mainstream table



The Bread Book



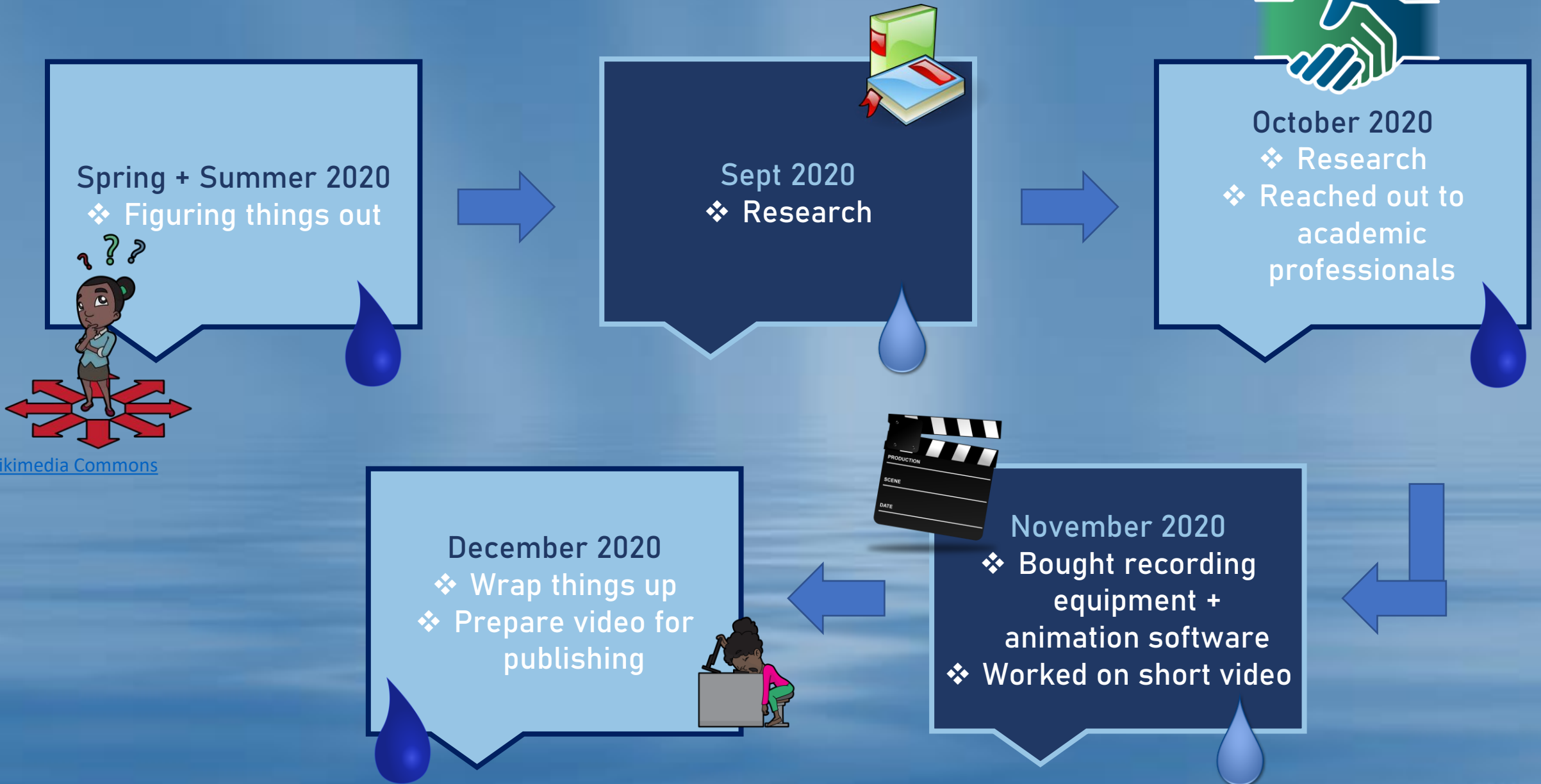
The Bread Book



New Clear Vision



The Process



Role of Feminist Leadership

- 70% of households in 45 developing nations have **women and young girls** collecting **water** (The Water Project)
- Adopting an **eco-feminist** approach
- Balancing unfair **power dynamics**



(Magick River)

Lessons and Insight



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Maturita's Cafe

- Reaching out for assistance and suggestions
- Execution and follow-through
- Overseeing different tasks simultaneously
- Self-care





Future Impact

- Easily accessible online at anytime
- Re-sparked conversation
- Made critical connections back to environmental justice

- Lack of sufficient water can hurt a person's ability to think and reason and make them prone to skin diseases. (McIntosh & Cross 2018).

- Problems are exacerbated when people remain unaware of environmental issues. For these reasons, I believe my social action project will create new ways to think about social change.



To Future Scholars

- The fight continues
- Expand upon other critical issues in environmental justice
- Find new mediums



[Larcey Blogs](#)



[Wikimedia Commons](#)

Thank You

Fellow Leadership
Scholars, Teachers,
and IWL Staff

Sincerely, a water enthusiast named Sarah Ekenezar



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