In this article Klawitter and Qazzaz discuss the idea of water as a right rather than a privilege. As the title suggests, this article is about water in Arab countries in the Middle East, but it begins broad enough that it can be useful for worldwide studies on human rights. This article begins with an overview of human rights. It clearly defines what human rights are and how they work, no matter which right is being discussed. They gave specific evidence for the real origin of human rights. As it says, “Human rights are not granted by any human authority or government, but are also derived from the essential dignity and nature of humankind...Denial of one right invariably impedes enjoyment of others, leading to recognition by UN States that human rights are indivisible, interdependent and interrelated.” (Klawitter and Qazzaz 2005:254). Throughout the article, the authors mention the words “indivisible, interdependent, and interrelated.” These words form a basis for why water is a right and not a privilege.

After the solid foundation in explaining what human rights are and how they can be promoted, the authors narrow their focus to water as a right. The information about human rights and the United Nations plays a large role in developing this topic. They describe the human right to water as “entitling everyone to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use” (Klawitter and Qazzaz 2005: 255). They then explain how the right to water is for everyone, meaning it cannot be withheld from anyone due to discrimination. The authors discussed how government is responsible for making sure even the most poverty-stricken people have the right to water. They break this down by discussing the different roles that international, national, and local governments play in establishing this.

As the article continued, it became slightly confusing. The authors explained how they gathered information and evaluated each of the Arab countries in the Middle East. This explanation of the criteria was brief and in list form. However, based upon these criteria, the end of this article is very informative and its format was especially useful. This last section is set up in table form, where each country is listed with current statistics and the conditions of different parts of the water vector, such as water quality, accessibility of water, and different water uses.

Overall, this article is very informative and its organization is easily understood. This article would be most useful for researching human rights and the right to water. Also, if one were researching a specific Arabic country’s current state (as of 2005) of water use in the Middle East, this article would also provide pertinent information. This article accomplishes its goal of informing readers on human rights, water as a human right, and the water rights in Arab countries in the Middle East. This article contained specific and cited information and, in addition, the organization made it easy to understand.