

Nature Essay Assignment Description

Draft for conferences & workshop due Sept. 24th-29th

Essay due October 1st

Nature writing involves the combining of the two cultures of humanistic art and technical science into a seamless view of culture and nature interacting.

~ Gary Paul Nabhan, author of *Mesquite: An Arboreal Love Affair*

Purpose

Throughout unit 1 we have been exploring writing about nature, in various forms and styles. This assignment will be an opportunity for you to explore narrative, expression, and sensory detail in your writing! You will also (ideally) find meaning and significance in writing about your personal connection to nature. In this first major essay, you have a chance to stretch those descriptive muscles and rediscover your voice. Consider immersive descriptions, personal connection, environmental awareness. How were you “saved by all the beauty of the world?” 😊

Method

We will have 3 free writes on the topic of nature—**plants, seasons, & creatures** during the unit. Use these less formal writing assignments to spark a greater narrative or other ideas of what you want to write about for this assignment. Use the course readings as inspiration for the style and voice you want to express—humor, whimsy, more personal, or more universal? Do you want to convey your own connection or make a statement on the state of the environment? You can focus on a plant or a specific animal but also consider writing about an experience you had in nature—an adventure or an annual camping trip, a swim in a lake, etc. (perhaps from this summer). You may include research, other people (dialogue), also make sure to include that rich sensory description that puts the reader in the scene with you and let us understand why it’s meaningful to you.

Audience

Your classmates & instructor. Consider someone who wants to know more about your plant, season, or creature, or the experience you are writing about.

Length & Format

Minimum 5 + pages (1250-1500 words). Double-spaced, 12 pt. font, etc. (see syllabus). This is your first assignment and your opportunity to explore something you are truly inspired by/feel connected to. Be creative in both subject and style! This assignment is worth **20%** of your final grade.