

GWRIT 103 Fall 2015

Comfort

Essay Assignment #2

Writing the Environment: Where the Human World and the Natural World Intersect

Reading Assignments:

“The Basics of Good Writing in Any Form” from *Tell It Slant* (Canvas)

“Taking Place: Writing the Physical World” from *Tell It Slant* (Canvas)

“Writing the Larger World” from *Tell It Slant* (Canvas)

“Using Research to Expand Your Perspective” from *Tell It Slant* (Canvas)

Jo Ann Beard’s “Coyotes” from *The Boys of My Youth* (Canvas)

Annie Dillard’s “Total Eclipse” from *The Next American Essay* (Canvas)

Annie Dillard’s “Seeing” from *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* (Canvas)

Reif Larsen’s “Norway the Slow Way” from *The New York Times* (online)

http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2014/09/19/travel/reif-larsen-norway.html?_r=0

Sy Montgomery’s “Deep Intellect” from *Orion Magazine* (online)

<https://orionmagazine.org/article/deep-intellect/>

“The Sixth Extinction?” by Elizabeth Kolbert from *The New Yorker*

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2009/05/25/the-sixth-extinction>

Part 1: The Written Text – Working Draft Due Thursday November 5th – Revision Due November 19th

Describe an experience you had connecting with a specific natural environment. Show a scene. Get cinematic with this. Describe this place in great, specific, detail. *Use imagery, metaphor, and rich, detailed descriptions. Engage your readers’ senses.* As you revise your piece, think about the techniques used by the authors’ of the assigned readings. **Think about how the writers engaged outside sources or facts based on science, history, philosophy, etc.** How might you connect your experience with the larger world?

Begin with a scene. Include characters. Use concrete description and figurative language in order to illuminate abstract ideas and to show the story. Make the experience of reading this essay cinematic. Use your writing to make your audience care about your subject. Don’t tell your audience to care. Allow your descriptive narrative do the work. This essay is an exercise in storytelling

Remember to start with the small. Begin with a scene. Describe the scene. Use specific, physical details. Engage your readers’ senses.

REMEMBER TO CITE YOUR SOURCES AND TO INCLUDE A WORKS CITED PAGE AT THE END OF YOUR ESSAY.

Use the MLA Citation Style

OWL Writing Lab MLA In-Text Citations

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/>

OWL Writing Lab MLA Works Cited Citation

Audio, interview, video, etc.

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/09/>

Electronic sources

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/08/>

Books

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/06/>

Magazines, journals, periodicals

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/07/>

SAMPLE WORKS CITED PAGE – This is the last page/chapter of your essay.

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/12/>

Citation Guides through JMU:

<http://www.lib.jmu.edu/help/checkcite/>

<https://www.refworks.com/refworks2/?r=authentication::init&groupcode=RWJamMadU>

Part 2: Using Digital Tools to Tell Your Story – Using the Atavast Platform:

- **Rough “Draft” Due on Tuesday November 10th (Including written draft and images)**
- **Revision Due Tuesday November 17th**
- **Final Revision Must Include at Least: Written Text, Images, and Video and/or Audio**

Student Examples of Atavast Projects:

“Past, Present, and Future: Western State Hospital in Staunton, Virginia” by Holly Warfield, Becca Moore, and Kea Allis
<https://password4.atavist.com/westernstatehospital>

“A Healthy Mind” by Stephanie Pasewaldt
<http://www.jmu.edu/lexia/>
<https://stephaniepasewaldt.atavist.com/ahealthymind>

“Lazy Man’s Meal” by Jessica Lyon, Peter Cagno, Kendall Gilman
<https://digicommdsa.atavist.com/lobstarollin>

“Digicomm: How These Three Girls Became Content Creators”
<https://digicomm.atavist.com/digicomm>

Digital Communication Consulting – Digicomm

<https://www.jmu.edu/digicomm/book-consultation.shtml>

- Consultations are one-on-one and can last up to 45 minutes
- All Tutoring is free
- Tutoring is non-evaluative and non-directive: we don’t talk about grades or tell you what to do. We’re here to empower students to be content creators.
- To schedule an appointment: <http://digicomm.appointy.com>

Kendall Gilman's WRTC 103 website for our class:
<http://writingyourenvironment.weebly.com>

Week 14

Dec 1 Atavist Project Presentations – Students 1-6

Dec 3 Atavist Project Presentations – Students 7-12

Week 15

Dec 8 Atavist Project Presentations – Students 13-18

Dec 10 Atavist Project Presentations – Students 19-22

Digital Portfolios Due

Section 0016: 12/17 at 12:30 - Email PUBLISHED link

Section 0064: 12/17 at 3:00 - Email PUBLISHED link