

Writing and the Environment

Exercise 1b (due Tuesday, February 15**):

In the previous assignment, I asked you to focus on a physical setting. Now, I want you to develop a narrative framework for your original description. Tell your readers a story that will help them understand your reasons for remembering this place (or animal). Your story need not lead us toward a dramatic conclusion, but it should allow us to share in any insight that you derived from your original experience (or from writing about that experience). The narrative need not tell us precisely what occurred at a particular time in the past, but it should capture the essence of your experience.

Think about what you want to accomplish through your writing. What do you want your readers to take away from the experience of reading your work? In some cases, you may need to explore the larger context for your specific story. At the same time, you should feel free to eliminate anything in Exercise 1a that does not contribute to the intended impact of your narrative.

This is not an opportunity to generalize about “Nature” or the virtues of escaping the “rat race.” Build upon the precise observations contained in your earlier exercise, and lead us toward the insight you want us to take away from your second exercise. The insight need not be grand. Do not tell your readers “the moral of the story.” You can offer them something new and distinctive if you investigate the subtle shifts in your own perceptions.

The finished exercise should be three to four double-spaced pages long (roughly 800 to 1000 words).

**If you submit this exercise before 9am on Monday, February 14th, I will be able to give you typed comments in class on the 15th.