

Assignment Prompt: Final Course Reflection

Over the past fifteen weeks, we've talked, written, and read about both writing and the environment.

- We've written to observe, to educate, to analyze, and to call people to action.
- We've moved away from the five-paragraph model toward the essay designed as an arc, following a string of topics.
- We've found ways to create conversationality in formal writing and avoid some of the traps of bad academic prose.
- We've worked extensively with research—finding it, making sense of it, incorporating it, and responding to it.

And we've also:

- Considered environmental guilt and grief, as well as wonder and hope.
- Engaged in environmental action and heard how others are taking action themselves.
- Focused on one's personal carbon footprint may not be the best way to take meaningful environmental action
- Explored topics related to personal environmental knowledge: what we do about lawns and gardens, pets, propaganda, etc.

At the same time, you've been becoming part of the St. Olaf community. And so on our last day of the course, I'd like you to reflect on what our learning has, or could, mean to you.

Please write a short response—informal, conversational (think: like an email)—reflecting on where you've been and where you're going from here. Here are some questions that you can use to shape what you want to reflect on:

- How will you take what we've done here and apply it moving forward?
- How can you make things we've tackled be of use in future classes, future semesters, and so on?
- Is there anything we've read or done that you hope to do again in another course, or which has shaped how you will approach other college experiences, like co-curriculars?
- If this is the beginning of the rest of your college career as a writer and environmentally aware person, how will you shape that career?