

Writing expectations and assignments for Sustainable Design Fall 2004

Expectations and Checklist (with help from Bob):

- There is a clearly defined thesis, position or argument in the introduction.
- The scope of the paper is evident. (Make it clear to the reader early on what the range of ideas and topics that you are covering will be).
- The body of the paper systematically deals with the main arguments in well-reasoned and structured paragraphs, which are logically tied together.
- There is a conclusion that is supported by evidence in the body of the paper.
- The paper makes broad use of the ideas and examples discussed in the texts and in seminar, while still maintaining a personal interpretation of those ideas.
- Your response to the assignment should be personal but well-informed (you did the readings) reflecting on ideas, images and opinions arising out of the program and relating pertinent ones to your own thinking on the question.
- One-page papers with 3 – 5 paragraphs.
- Title, date, your name and seminar faculty name in header.
- Cite Sources for quotes, illustrations, ideas, etc. not original to you.
- Students are expected to work on several drafts before turning in work.
- Review by peers is recommended and will be required for some assignments. If your peer says "yeah, so?" you have failed to make your (or a) point.
- Define your terms
- USE YOUR SPELL CHECKER and EDIT YOUR PAPER CONTINUOUSLY for punctuation, grammar, and syntax..
- Attend to agreement between subjects, pronouns, modifiers and verbs.

Stylistic Suggestions (from The Elements of Style)

- ☐ Use the active voice.
- ☐ Put statements in positive form
- ☐ Use definite, specific and concrete language.
- ☐ Omit needless words. (Vigorous writing is concise)
- ☐ In summaries, keep to one tense.
- ☐ Place the emphatic word of a sentence at the end

Assignments:

1. Due Wed. Oct 6: What is your idea and/or definition of Sustainable Design?
2. Due Wed. Oct 13: Select one of the following:
 - A. Drawing from White's work (Chapter 5, starting on page 171) reflect on and describe the experience with work in the outdoors/environment you (or someone close to you) has had. If you have no experience with working in the environment, reflect on how your life has passed without that experience.

How has your experience formed your ideas and opinions about why and how people work in the outdoors/environment?

B. What is your definition of wilderness? How does it compare to the examples Cronon gives (Chapter 1, starting on page 69)? Upon reading his chapter, how did your idea(s) about wilderness change, if at all?

3. Due Wed. Oct. 27.

Describe one of the neighborhoods you have lived in. Explain why, to you, it was a neighborhood that had a strong sense of place, or seemed more "place-less."

Define what place means to you and then describe an ideal neighborhood that epitomizes place to you.

4. Due Wed. Nov. 17

In each of the books by Pollan and Gilbert there is a description of the sites being used: the (small) site for Michael Pollan's writing studio and Conway's Turtle Island. Describe each site's characteristics and then draw (on an extra piece of paper) each site from your description. For Conway's Turtle Island remember to identify the phase of the site (e.g. early, late with farming, buildings, etc.) you are describing.

5. Due Wed. Dec. 1

Revisit and re-write your definition of sustainable design. What significant changes have you made in your definition? What influenced these changes the most?