Gary Paul Nabhan (1996) led his essay with the question “What if every decision-maker were to admit that places can influence our destinies as much as other people can?” In this report you will evaluate the influence of place on your experience this quarter. To complete it you will need your notes from the brief exercise completed during class on Friday September 28.

Return to Sehome Arboretum and repeat instructions (1-3) from that exercise, reprinted below.

(1) Set aside anything you brought with you and spend the next five minutes observing the forest without distraction.

(2) After your five minute observation period, identify each species or other forest component for which you have a clear connection.* In your identifications, feel free to consult your course text (Mathews’ Natural History of the Pacific Northwest Mountains), other field guides, and the instructor or TA.

(3) For each species or component, describe your connection in a sentence or two.

To help you identify connections, you might consider how your life might differ in the absence of a particular species or forest component.

Next, compare answers to (2) and (3) with those from the first exercise, and answer the following.

1 Compare the number of species and kinds of connections you identified the first time versus now [step (2) above]. Describe any changes in the number of species and kinds of connections.

2 Describe experiences or other factors responsible for changes in connections you described above. If you describe more than one kind of experience or factor, be sure to state the relative importance of each. Your descriptions also should include course field sites or other places that contributed to the changes.

3 Explain why those experiences or other factors were effective in generating changes described above. Is their effectiveness likely to be general, or uniquely relevant to you?

4 Describe the kinds of knowledge or experience that would substantially increase the number of species or deepen the quality of nature connections you feel in the Pacific Northwest. Explain why that knowledge or experience would be so effective.

5 Applying your answers to 1-3, describe how your sense of place has developed during this quarter. In your answer, use the following definition for “sense of place,” quoted from Lichatowich (2013, p. 20). Your answer should describe changes in interaction between the external landscape and your “internal landscape.”

Sense of place is the interaction between [external and internal landscapes]. The external landscape includes physical and biological attributes such as mountains, valleys, rivers, climate, animals, and plants. To make sense of the external landscape [humans] give these attributes names and then measure or count them. But real understanding requires careful observation through which relationships among and between the living and non-living parts of the landscape are revealed. The internal landscape, the landscape of the mind, tries to understand the external landscape through knowledge of those relationships.
Point Allocation:
(1) Compare connections then vs. now, number of species and kinds of connections (15 points)
(2) Describe experiences/factors responsible for connection changes (15 points)
(3) Reasons why experiences/factors effective (15 points)
(4) Knowledge or experience to increase or deepen connections (15 points)
(5) Development of sense of place (30 points)
(6) Writing quality (10 points)
**Total: 100 points**

Evaluation Criteria:
Excellent answers should match the following characteristics for each part.
(1) Compare answers then vs. now, number of species and kinds of connections
   a) Identifies changes in species clearly.
   b) Describes changes in connection characteristics clearly.
(2) Describe experiences/factors responsible for changes
   a) Descriptions are clear, including relevant places and relative importance.
   b) Descriptions provide clear links between experiences/factors and changes.
(3) Reasons why experiences/factors effective
   a) Explanations are clear and convincing.
   b) Inferences about generality or uniqueness are clear and convincing.
(4) Knowledge or experience to increase or deepen connections
   a) Description is clear and convincing.
   b) Explanations include mechanisms linking knowledge or experience to increased or deeper connections.
   c) Description reflects thoughtful consideration.
(5) Development of sense of place
   a) Description is clear and follows from answers to 1-3.
   b) Description addresses elements of external landscape explicitly, with relevance.
   c) Description addresses development of the internal landscape clearly and insightfully.


*The following are examples of connections. Your own connections likely will involve different species in different ways.
(a) Bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) trees grow in the forest. You eat off a table made from bigleaf maple wood.
(b) Pacific yew (*Taxus brevifolia*) trees grow in the forest. One of your relatives recovered from breast cancer due in part from treatment with Taxol, a compound discovered in Pacific yew trees.
(c) Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) trees dominate the forested watershed that provides your drinking water. The trees help maintain quality and quantity of your water supply.*