

Action in Place Project + Presentation (35 points)

“Suppose you had the revolution you are talking and dreaming about. Suppose your side had won, and you had the kind of society that you wanted. How would you live, you personally, in that society? Start living that way now!” It’s an argument for tiny and temporary victories, and for the possibility of partial victories in the absence or even the impossibility of total victories.” –Rebecca Solnit

'What does it mean to be alive in an era when the earth is being devoured, and in a country which has set the pattern for that devouring? What are we called to do? I think we are called to the work of healing, both inner and outer: healing of the mind through a change in consciousness, healing of the earth through a change in our lives. We can begin that work by learning how to abide in a place.' –
Scott Russell Sanders

The **‘Action in Place’ project** will link our academic inquiry with ‘actually doing something,’ alleviating some of the anxiety that comes from the perception that we’re doing a lot of talking and thinking and not enough doing. This can be the thoughtful continuation/intensification of an action you’re already practicing in your own life, or it can be something new, something you’ve been wanting to do but haven’t, something that’s only just occurred to you.

While you can approach this in a variety of non-linear ways, you might start by identifying an issue you’re passionate about – food justice, inclusive community, racial justice, mindfulness, caring for animals, radical self-care – and begin working toward an informed solution, starting with yourself and spiraling outward. Engage your AWARENESS, your PASSIONS, your TALENTS, your JOY. You might produce a community art piece, a blog, a zine, a map, a film, start a group or a garden, intern at a farm, volunteer time and energy at a place you love, write a piece for publication, begin a new practice...the possibilities are somewhat endless. As you consider what you might do, think about situating your action in place...consider actions, needs, and values that are relevant and connected to the place where you are.

By Friday, April 12, I want to see a paragraph or two outlining what you’re thinking of doing and why, so that I can offer you feedback. **Post this on the ‘Action in Place’ Discussion Forum so that your classmates can see what you’re planning, offering the potential to collaborate.** Then, get started (or keep going). Make notes of what you do and how you feel, keep a journal, whatever makes sense for you to record and reflect on your experiences.

During the last week you’ll share what you created with the class in short ‘lightening’ presentations (worth 10 points), and by May 16, the date of our final exam, you’ll turn in a 1100-to-1500-word paper (this is the final, no additional exam) with three components:

1. **A context piece**, placing your project into a wider framework of socio-ecological issues, using what you’ve learned so far in this class, in other classes, in your experiences to EXPLAIN your issue and JUSTIFY your approach, **using at least FOUR credible sources** (at least ONE from our class!) to support you. (400-500 words)
2. **A summary piece**, illustrating/explaining what you did (300-500 words, plus any appendices (photos, maps, website link, video, anything you actually produced and want to share)
3. **An analysis and personal reflection piece** – what was your experience like, what meaning did it hold for you, what impact did you have, what did you learn, where will you take this from here? (400-500 words)

You can work individually or collaborate with others on the project, but everyone must turn in their own paper. Don't feel like you have to 'conclude' the project by the time of presentations and submission of the final paper. This can be (and I hope it is) something you start and continue into the future. Papers should be well-written, organized, edited for grammar and spelling, and include at least FOUR credible sources properly cited. Any formal style (MLA, APA, Chicago) is acceptable as long as it's followed consistently, employing both [in-text citations and a full works cited list](#).

Rubric:

'Lightning' presentation	10 points
Context piece (including works cited)	10 points
Product and/or Summary	10 points
Analysis and Personal Reflection piece	5 points
Total Points	35 points