

Environmental Autobiography Assignment

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Purpose

TBA

Task Overview

TBA

Assignment Details

Worksheet for "Environmental Autobiography"

Environmental Autobiography: "How has my family's and/or community's relation to the land influenced the way I approach the land and environmental issues?" Consider your own family's and/or primary community's history and place in society going back three to five generations (and farther if you can). What have been some of the important historical, social, cultural, and economic factors that have shaped your family's/community's and your attitudes toward the land and environmental issues. Why? How did your family and community use the land and relate to nature? Jot down some of your thoughts and answers in the space below:

How would you characterize your primary interactions with the land or nature, and why? What is your evidence for this?

- direct source of sustenance or income; economic resource
- recreation
- spiritual or aesthetic
- little or no connection

What have been some of the important social-historical factors that have shaped your family's and community's relation to the land and perception of environmental issues? How have these factors in turn shaped your views?

Factors:

Economic:

Historical:

Geographic:

Race:

Cultural:

Religious:

Education:

Other:

What large events--immigration, wars, depressions, revolutions, social movements--shaped their/your lives? Have these had any influence on their/your values, attitudes, behaviors?

Which of your family's values with respect to the land and the environment have you retained? Which have you revised or rejected? Have you developed some further or differently? Why?

What insights do you gain from this exercise on how you have been shaped to view the land and environmental issues? What implications do you see for how we think about religion and nature, or for environmental ethics?