

Sense of Place Creative Narrative

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Purpose

Setha Low (1992) defines “sense of place” as a symbolic and emotional relationship between people and a particular place. Sense of place provides the basis for an individual or group’s social, cultural, and biophysical understanding of the local environment. Lim and Barton (2006) suggest that sense of place influences how people experience their education, and that education can “leverage” sense of place to build connections to learning. The purpose of this assignment is for you to think about sense of place in this context, explore and identify your own sense of place, and to creatively express your identity through images, art, and narratives. This can be achieved through a timeline or it can be a mosaic of ideas and places. Be creative and reflect on your own sense of place and its connection to your own education and experience.

Task

- Read Lim and Barton’s “Sense of Place and Science Learning” in its entirety. As you read, reflect on your own sense of place, and how it has intersected with your own (science or environmental) education.
- Construct a representation of your own sense of place as it relates to your interest in the environment. Using words and images, creatively present this narrative into a collage, mosaic, or timeline format. There is no set format, paper size, or media/materials.
- Consider how your sense of place and educational environments have changed over time. Where have you learned the most? When was learning most connected to your sense of place? What were the outcomes of this? What aspects of sense of place have been most emphasized in your education? Which were neglected? What have you enjoyed the most?
- Refer to sample student work for inspiration, but be creative and represent yourself.
- Make your creative narrative thoughtful and beautiful, and a personal expression of your own experience.

References

Lim, M., & Barton, A. C. (2006). Science learning and a sense of place in a urban middle school. *Cultural Studies of Science Education*, 1(1), 107-142.

Low, S. M. (1992). Symbolic ties that bind. In *Place Attachment* (pp. 165-185). Springer, Boston, MA.

Student Sample

