

# Sense of Place Creative Narrative

Victoria Derr

## 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

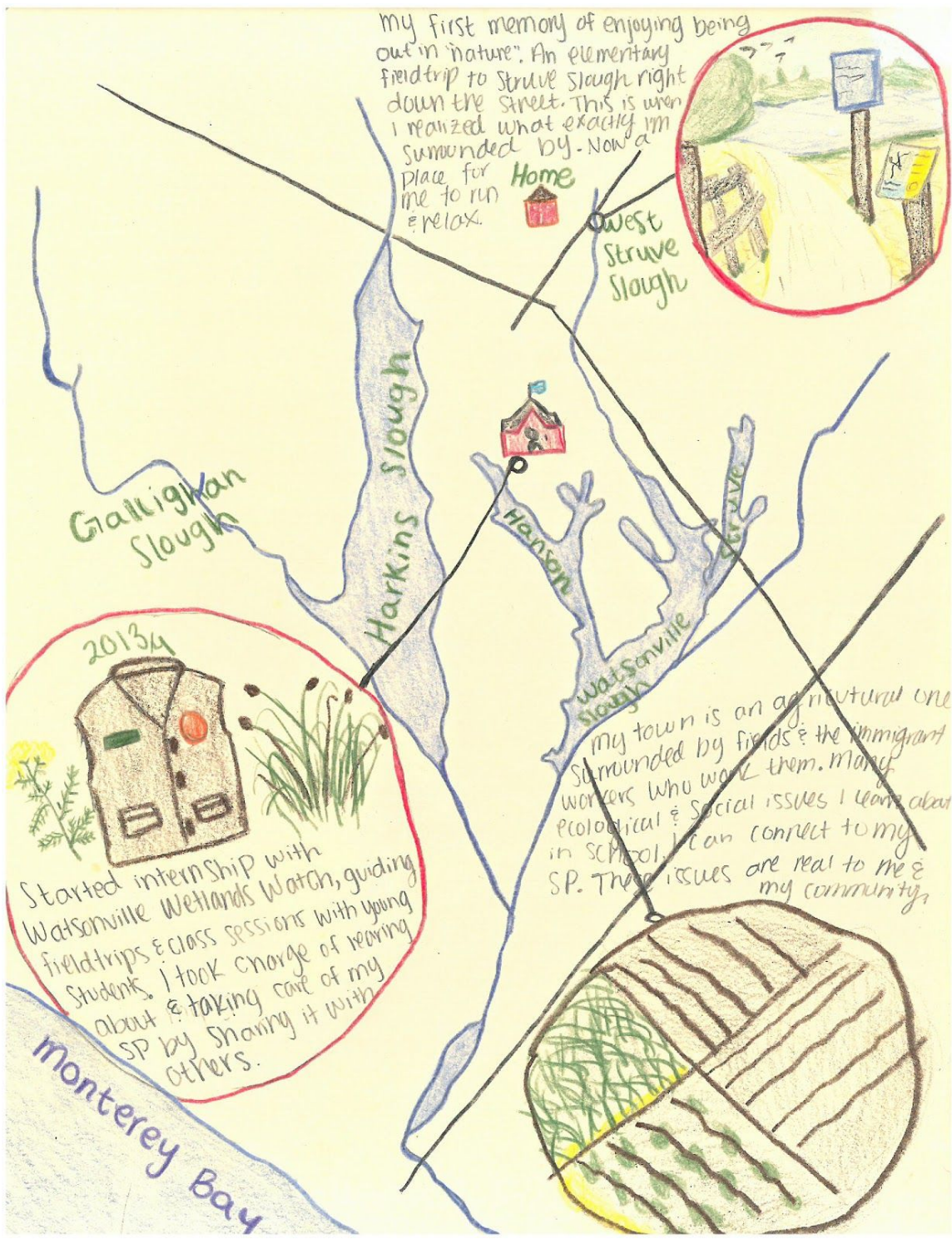
- Read Lim and Barton’s “Sense of Place and Science Learning” in its entirety. As you read, reflect on your own sense of place, and how it has intersected with your own (science or environmental) education.
- Construct a representation of your own sense of place as it relates to your interest in the 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



My first memory of enjoying being out in "nature". An elementary fieldtrip to Struve Slough right down the street. This is when I realized what exactly I'm surrounded by. Now a place for me to run & relax.



Galligian Slough

Harkins Slough

West Struve Slough



Hanson Slough

Watsonville Slough

Struve Slough

2013/4  
Started internship with Watsonville Wetlands Watch, guiding fieldtrips & class sessions with young students. I took charge of rearing about & taking care of my SP by showing it with others.

Monterey Bay

My town is an agricultural one surrounded by fields & the immigrant workers who work them. Many ecological & social issues I learn about in school, I can connect to my SP. These issues are real to me & my community.

