

The Conservation of Natural Resources

~ Your Cargo Cult College ~

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Home Essay Project: Woman's Path to Knowing

Project Description:

The Home Essay project is designed to foster a sense of place. Part of this is knowing something about the geography and the natural environment of where we live, but it is also about recognizing and accounting for the ways in which the landscapes, communities, and relationships around us makes us who we are.

Begin by reading poet Louise Bogan's brief paragraph and Stephen Trimble's essay "A Land of One's Own: Gender and Landscape". Then read "The Round Walls of Home" by Diane Ackerman. So prepared, read the chapter from Alice Koller's 1981 An Unknown Woman.

Next, using the ideas set forth in Trimble and Ackerman, and relying on your understanding of relationships, vulnerability, and change, describe in writing what you think Koller is going through. What can be learned and shared from the experience of Koller and other women that extends our collective understanding of our society's relationship to the natural environment?

As you read these essays, you will uncover some ideas about being open to new relationships and about the difficulties of personal transformation in the face of intense environmental interaction. As a final step, demonstrate command of your work and bring your supported conclusions into your reading of Aldo Leopold's essay "Home Range" starting on page 83.

Consider how Leopold's musings on the tracks and sign of wild creatures places him as a participant in the landscape. Are there ways this perspective gives him some means to grapple with the challenges presented by life? How is this similar or different from what Koller and Ackerman are writing about?

Please get this to me in three weeks. Five pages, maximum. Typed responses are required. Late papers will not be accepted.