

Writing Assignment: Leopold's "Odyssey"

Introduction

Please think about Leopold's *The Ecological Conscience* where he wrote about fostering a land ethic through conservation education, and the challenges of implementing an ethical framework in conservation agencies. I want you to think about how we adapt to environmental change, how we explain it to ourselves, to others, and finally, how and when we decide to *act*. Your job is to add the work from this assignment to your current essay efforts, *taking my comments on your current work into account*.

Assigned Readings/Resources

- Aldo Leopold's essay "Odyssey," page 111, in A Sand County Almanac.
- Reflections on our hike to the Camillus Maples.
- Courtney White's essay *Land Health: A language to describe the common ground beneath our feet* in Knight and White.

Assignment

Read Aldo Leopold's essay, *Odyssey*, that tells the ecological life stories of X and Y as they journey through two very different landscapes.

1. Think about our hike to the Camillus Maples, and add your own memories and documentation to your first assignment: demonstrate you understand Leopold's main idea by describing – like Leopold did – the journey and fate of two atoms there. Ask yourself: in light of what might have been built there, how might the atoms' journeys differ?

Read Courtney White's essay *Land Health: A language to describe the common ground beneath our feet*.

2. Following Courtney's explanation of Leopold's land health concept (on page 211), he summarizes three key categories of land health indicators. Put each in your own words and use them to comment on the ecological consequences of the alternative journeys you described above. You will add these ideas to your ever-growing assignment.