

**Creative Nonfiction and Science Writing**  
**Unit 5 Major Assignment: Activist Essay**  
Assignment Sheet

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**DUE DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SUMMARY OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

Turn your observations and science research into a work of activism and argument. Move your readers to want to take action. Your essay should be a work of creative nonfiction, which utilizes a range of the techniques we have discussed in class.

**PURPOSE OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

This assignment expands your versatility as a writer and shows how observation and research work can support the interventions you wish to make in your readers' ways of thinking. This assignment also demonstrates first-hand how creative science writing can be a powerful means of not only scientific reporting, but also convincing audiences of the implications and ramifications of scientific findings.

**REQUIREMENTS AND GENERATIVE CONSTRAINTS**

- Write 3-5 double-spaced pages.
- Include a meaningful and engaging title for your essay.
- Use observation and multiple forms of research to make a compelling argument.
- Persuade your reader to agree with your argument. Your conclusions should be well-reasoned and convincing.
- Help readers to see your topic in a new way.
- Use primarily indirect means of persuasion. Following Walker Percy's recommendations, as discussed in class, write an essay that inductively leads your readers to a conclusion.
- While you may be making an argument that can be summarized in a sentence, don't begin your essay with a thesis statement. This assignment asks you to depart from traditional academic models of arrangement and logic, as discussed in class.
- In making your argument, use a range of the rhetorical techniques that we analyzed in our readings.
- Your essay should demonstrate a complexity of thought. Allow your readers to see an active mind at work.
- Your essay should be easy to follow and consistently interesting. Invite your readers into your thinking.
- Style, tone, word choice, verb tense, grammar, and spelling should be consistent. All departures from convention should have a clear purpose and should contribute to the meaning of the piece.