

Observation/Photo Nature Journaling Project Assignment and Rubric

Project is worth 100 Points – Due 5:00 p.m. 12/1/2020

Scientists use their observations over time to understand how the world works. They also use those observations to predict how our world might be changing. You will be making weekly observations (pictures and brief notes) of an outside nature area/object of your choice. The result will be a nature journal turned in at the end of the semester.

Each week you need to take 2 pictures or make 2 sketches of a nature area. The first should focus on a **deciduous tree** (NOT an evergreen) so that you can observe how that tree changes over the semester. The other nature area/object **should** change week to week, but the tree may not (it must be the same tree every week). By the end of the semester you should have 28 photographs or sketches (the sketches can be in color pencil, water color, pencil or charcoal) and your observations. **Each picture should be labeled. (28 points)**

First Week Observation (8 points) Week of 8/25/2020:

- Describe in writing what you see with **as much detail** as possible: Think about and then write – what am I looking at? What is it doing?
- How does it move, sound, smell, or feel, if appropriate? Write your answers.
- Think about connections and answer the following questions: Why is this (animal, plant, tree, rock formation) here? What else is living nearby? How can it live in this place or how did it come to be here?
- Consider the big picture and answer the following questions: What can I learn from it? How does it relate to my world? What more would I like to learn about this?

The above questions should be answered in writing (see sample data sheet attached). ***Don't forget to take a picture of your tree (or draw) and your other nature object or area!***

Also Include:

Date, Location, Weather, Time, Temperature, Number of hours of daylight today, Animal signs

Second Week Observation (5 points) Week of 9/1/2020:

- Do a tree bark rubbing of your tree to include in your journal (crayons on plain paper work best)
- Do a leaf rubbing of a leaf from your tree to include in your journal (again, crayons on plain paper work best)
- What is the shape of your tree?
- How do you think weather impacts your tree?

Don't forget to take a picture of your tree (or draw) and your other nature object or area!

Also Include:

Date, Location, Weather, Time, Temperature, Number of hours of daylight today, Animal signs

Third Week of Observation (5 points) Week of 9/8/2020:

- How big is the trunk of your tree?
- Is there any damage to your tree? If there is what do you think caused it?
- Describe the branches.
- Are there any seeds/nuts on or around your tree? Draw them.

Don't forget to take a picture of your tree (or draw) and your other nature object or area!

Also Include:

Date, Location, Weather, Time, Temperature, Number of hours of daylight today, Animal signs

On these weeks: 9/15, 10/6, 10/27, and 11/17 you will need to answer the following in writing in addition to the weekly data recording (4 points each – total 16 points):

- Have any of the sounds, smells, feels, or what you see changed? Do you see any changes happening to your tree? What are they?
- Look around, what other signs of life do you see? Any animals? List them. Tracks?
- Any nature surprises? List any that you found that day.

Don't forget to take a picture of your tree (or draw) and your other nature object or area!

Also Include:

Date, Location, Weather, Time, Temperature, Number of hours of daylight today, Animal signs

On these weeks: 9/22, 9/29, 10/13, 10/20, 11/3, and 11/10 (2 points each/12 points total) you will need to take a picture of your tree (or draw) and your other nature object or area and record:

1. Date
2. Location
3. Weather
4. Time
5. Temperature
6. Number of hours of daylight today
7. Animal Signs

Final Observation: 11/24/2020: you will need to answer the following in writing in addition to the weekly data recording (6 points):

- Over the course of the semester and your weekly observations, how do you think that weather impacts trees? Go into detail.
- Have any of the sounds, smells, feels, or what you see changed? Do you see any changes happening to your tree? What are they?
- Look around, what other signs of life do you see? Any animals? List them. Tracks?
- Any nature surprises? List any that you found that day.

Don't forget to take a picture of your tree (or draw) and your other nature object or area!

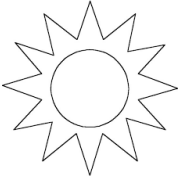
Also Include:

Date, Location, Weather, Time, Temperature, Number of hours of daylight today, Animal signs

Self-Assessment Piece: At the end of the semester/observation project, write a minimum of three page self-assessment on how this project may have helped your connection to nature, your observation skills, and how you might apply nature journaling to your own teaching to help students improve their own observation and data collection skills **(20 points)**.

Points will be taken off for punctuation, spelling, and grammar errors.

Sample Observation Data Sheet Day One (8/25/2020): **Don't forget to take a picture of your tree (or draw) and your other nature object or area!**

Date:	Location:		
Weather (circle one):			
   			
Time:	Temperature:	Number of hours of daylight:	
Animal Signs (circle what you see):			
Tracks	Scat	Feathers	Chewed plants
Eggs	Hole	Nest	Smell
Web			

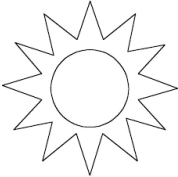
Describe in writing what you see with **as much detail** as possible: Think about and then write – what am I looking at? What is it doing?

How does it move, sound, smell, or feel, if appropriate? Write your answers.

Think about connections: Why is this (animal, plant, tree, rock formation) here? What else is living nearby? How can it live in this place or how did it come to be here?

Consider the big picture: What can I learn from it? How does it relate to my world? What more would I like to learn about this?

Sample Observation Data Sheet Week Two (9/1/2020): Don't forget to take a picture of your tree (or draw) and your other nature object or area!

Date:	Location:		
Weather (circle one):			
   			
Time:	Temperature:	Number of hours of daylight:	
Animal Signs (circle what you see):			
Tracks	Scat	Feathers	Chewed plants
Eggs	Hole	Nest	Smell
Web			

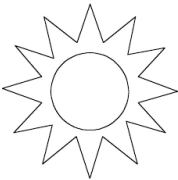
Do a tree bark rubbing of your tree to include in your journal (crayons on plain paper work best)

Do a leaf rubbing of a leaf from your tree to include in your journal (again, crayons on plain paper work best)

What is the shape of your tree?

How do you think weather impacts your tree? Answer in detail.

Sample Observation Data Sheet Week Three (9/8/2020): **Don't forget to take a picture of your tree (or draw) and your other nature object or area!**

Date:		Location:			
Weather (circle one):					
					
					
Time:		Temperature:		Number of hours of daylight:	
Animal Signs (circle what you see):					
Tracks	Scat	Feathers	Chewed plants	Eggs	Hole Nest Smell Web

How big is the trunk of your tree?

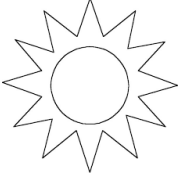
Is there any damage to your tree? If there is what do you think caused it?

Describe the branches.

Are there any seeds/nuts on or around your tree? Draw them.

Sample Data Sheet for Observations Weeks: 9/15, 10/6, 10/27, and 11/17
and your other nature object or area!

Don't forget to take a picture of your tree (or draw)

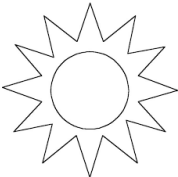
Date:	Location:		
Weather (circle one):			
   			
Time:	Temperature:	Number of hours of daylight:	
Animal Signs (circle what you see):			
Tracks	Scat	Feathers	Chewed plants Eggs Hole Nest Smell Web

Have any of the sounds, smells, feels, or what you see changed? Do you see any changes happening to your tree? What are they?

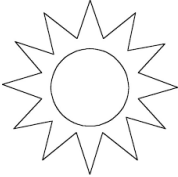
Look around, what other signs of life do you see? Any animals? List them. Tracks?

Any nature surprises? List any that you found that day.

Sample Data Sheet for Observations Weeks: 9/22, 9/29, 10/13, 10/20, 11/3, and 11/10. Don't forget to take a picture of your tree (or draw) and your other nature object or area!

Date:		Location:			
Weather (circle one):					
					
					
Time:		Temperature:		Number of hours of daylight:	
Animal Signs (circle what you see):					
Tracks	Scat	Feathers	Chewed plants	Eggs	Hole
Nest	Smell	Web			

Sample Observation Data Sheet Week 14 (11/24/2020): Don't forget to take a picture of your tree (or draw) and your other nature object or area!

Date:	Location:		
Weather (circle one):			
   			
Time:	Temperature:	Number of hours of daylight:	
Animal Signs (circle what you see):			
Tracks	Scat	Feathers	Chewed plants Eggs Hole Nest Smell Web

Over the course of the semester and your weekly observations, how do you think that weather impacts trees? Go into detail.

Have any of the sounds, smells, feels, or what you see changed? Do you see any changes happening to your tree? What are they?

Look around, what other signs of life do you see? Any animals? List them. Tracks?

Any nature surprises? List any that you found that day.

Nature Journal Scoring Rubric

	Not Done	Developing	Accomplished	Exemplary	Score
Pictures/Sketches (Total 30 pts.)	Lack of effort is obvious. Nothing is labeled. Less than 10 photos or sketches completed. 0-10 pts.	11-17 photos or sketches completed. More than 6 pictures or drawings are missing and/or not labeled. Attempt is messy. 11-20 pts.	21 – 29 photos or sketches completed. 1-2 pictures or drawings are missing and/or are not labeled or are not in order. 21-29 pts.	Assignment is complete with 30+ photos or sketches All pictures or drawings are consistently labeled and are in order. 30 pts.	
First Week Observation Questions & Data (5 pts.) Week of 8/25/2020	Questions are not complete or reflective. Data incomplete. 0 pts.	Answers to questions are complete or reflective, but not both. Data incomplete. 2-3 pts.	Answers to questions are complete and reflective. Some data incomplete. 4pts.	Answers to questions complete, creative, and reflective. All data complete. 5 pts.	
Second Week Observation & Data (5 points) Week of 9/1/2020	Questions are not complete or reflective. Data incomplete. 0 pts.	Answers to questions are complete or reflective, but not both. Data incomplete. 2-3 pts.	Answers to questions are complete and reflective. Some data incomplete. 4pts.	Answers to questions complete, creative, and reflective. All data complete. 5 pts.	
Third Week of Observation Questions & Data (5 points) Week of 9/8/2020	Questions are not complete or reflective. Data incomplete. 0 pts.	Answers to questions are complete or reflective, but not both. Data incomplete. 2-3 pts.	Answers to questions are complete and reflective. Some data incomplete. 4pts.	Answers to questions complete, creative, and reflective. All data complete. 5 pts.	
Observation Questions and Data for 9/15, 10/6, 10/27, and 11/17 (16 pts.)	Questions are not complete or reflective. Data incomplete. 0 - 4 pts.	Answers to questions are complete or reflective, but not both. Data incomplete. 5-8 pts.	Answers to questions are complete and reflective. Some data incomplete. 9-12 pts.	Answers to questions complete, creative, and reflective. All data complete. 13-16 pts.	
Observation Data for 9/22, 9/29, 10/13, 10/20, 11/3, 11/10, and 11/24 (2	Data are complete for 0-2 days. 0-4 pts	Data are complete for 3-4 days. 6-8 pts.	Data are complete for 5-6 days. 10-12 pts.	Data complete for all 7 days. 14 pts.	

points each/14 points total)					
Self-Assessment (20 pts.)	Assessment not done. 0 pts.	Assessment is missing two or more of the three components. Low quality writing that demonstrates the conventions of the English language. Yet, errors in grammar, spelling, and/or sentence structure are evident. 1-8 pts.	Assessment is missing one of the three components. Professional quality writing that demonstrates the conventions of Standard English, and not limited to clarity of expression, grammar, sentence structure, and spelling. 9-12 pts.	Assessment includes all three components. High professional quality writing that demonstrates the conventions of Standard English, and not limited to clarity of expression, grammar, sentence structure, and spelling. 13-16 pts.	
Total Score					