**Rhetoric and Nature Writing (30-45 minutes)**

This assignment can be beneficial for students after they learn about basic rhetoric and contextual positioning, and it gets students out of the classroom and working independently. You can either have assigned them the essay [“This is Your Brain on Nature”](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/this-is-your-brain-on-nature_n_55bf98fee4b0b23e3ce35d99) to read before class, or you can go over it with them in class.

Assignment:

1. As a class, go over the essay. Discuss, in particular, the use of rhetoric and contextual positioning.
2. Have students pack their belongings and do the following:
3. Find a spot outside (quad or somewhere nearby) and notice the nature around you. Don’t people watch (although they are arguably part of nature as well) but instead, look at the trees, animals, and so forth. After observing a particular part of nature for about five minutes, write a couple paragraphs that address the following:
4. Describe what you noticed and how you responded to it. You may have noticed that your breath slowed or that you felt more relaxed or maybe you felt impatient—there is no correct answer.
5. When you are finished, come find me and sign the attendance sheet.