

ESSAY 1

How effective is the conservation of plants and animals in your region?

Plants and animals are an amazing creation. If you think about how different each plant is from another plant and how distinctive animals are, it's an interesting idea to imagine about. But not all plants and animals are protected wherever they may be.

In the region of Marion County, Florida, the protection of plants and trees is taken to an extreme level. With our many forest fires and increase of dryness throughout our region, we have to take into extreme consideration of how and when fires are appropriate. Just like many, including me, love the idea of a huge bonfire during the winter season. But sometimes the environment is just too dry to be able to burn a fire, because it could easily cause an at home fire which could put humans and their homes and families in danger.

Aside from the danger of burning fires with the dry land, there is also the Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) who are apart of the people who do the control burnings in our national forest. They do these burnings because it provides a better resource for the plants and trees to grow better and increase more in population. But many humans are the cause of most of our fires in the national forest, and this is because many people who smoke don't realize when they toss their buds out the window onto the dry grass, it's that easy to start a fire in a matter of seconds. So that is why the conservation of plants is taken into high effectiveness.

Just as our plants are highly protected, our animals are in a way protected too. One of the ways the conservation of animals is put in danger is the love that most humans have for hunting. There are many different ideas of hunting, and those include fishing, duck hunting, deer hunting, turkey hunting, etc. With this simple love that many humans have, it causes many of our animals to be in a dangerous situation. With the game for hunting deer, turkey and other animals, it decreases the effectiveness of protecting our animals in our region, and it causes these specific animals to become endangered.

Even though hunting can reduce the effectiveness of protecting our animals, there are other ways that reducing some of the animal life can help regulate the conservation of our animals in our region. A few of those agencies that further support my reasoning are the regulatory agencies which are: the

wildlife management and the fishing game. Additionally is the private club, ducks unlimited who also lobby the conservation of our water fowl.

Beginning with the regulatory agencies, they together manage the population growth. With the Wildlife management, these people are in charge of the deer and wildlife animals. They help permit how many of these animals are hunted and the escalating and diminishing rate of the population growth. Now as for the Fishing Game, they are the ones who manage the fresh and saltwater fisheries, in which they limit how many fish are caught and to restrict humans from over catching. As for the group, Ducks Unlimited, they are a club who only manage the area for water fowl in which they protect the hunting rights and conservation of our animals.

So between the diminishing of protection caused by hunting and the opposing side of regulating the increase and decrease of population, too much of this regulatory is usually not desired by the hunter, because they do not want regulatory. And with no regulatory for the protection of our animals, would eventually lead to the extinction of many animals.

Furthermore, there is a high expectancy for the conservation of our plants and animals in our region. Even though there is the exception of hunting and burning by humans, there are always people who are there to protect these wildlife animals and plants. So basically, in the end, us humans won't extinct many of our natural resources of animals and plants to where food may eventually vanish.

ESSAY 2

Do Outer Appearances Impact Inner Feelings?

Buildings are some of the most important structures in our lives, expressing a sense of pride and culture of your country in some cases, and others reflecting our own personalities and habits. A well kempt lawn, immaculate topiary and garden features, and a white walled house without a scratch in the wall paint or windows or scuff on the walkway shows a well to do person or family, reflecting status and a sense of grandeur. A home with a cut lawn with the occasional toy lying about and chalk drawings on the sidewalk and walkway displays a homey, childhood feel. And of course, a home or building in dire need of repair, with an overgrown yard, broken windows, and decaying walls and roof gives a sense of poverty and despair. The appearances of a building or landmark can reflect a person or society's habits and also send a message to visitors about that person or society, and are therefore very important.

The Taj Mahal and the White House are both prime examples of this thought process. The Taj Mahal is in all actuality a tomb built out of love and respect for a past king's wife, the name of the palace like structure literally meaning 'Crown Jewel'. Were such an important part of Indian history to fall out of repair, it would indicate not only slovenliness and a lack of respect for the dead, but also that the country has become too poor to maintain the proper upkeep of one of its most iconic structures. This would deter people from other countries from wanting to visit, which would in turn cause the revenue created from tourism to fall, leading to the possibility of the country really becoming poor. The White House is a sign of America's freedom and democracy; it's where all our legislation goes for its final reviews and is also the home of the most important figure in America, our president. If a place like this were to become broken down, decrepit, or any other state of disrepair, it would say to both visitors and Americans that the occupants no longer care enough to take care of the home they live in, that this is no longer the golden country where freedom was won against all odds. This alone would crush the spirit of visitors and natives alike, and would be devastating on our standing with other countries.

Historic neighborhoods are a window into the past of a town, and are a vital way of reminding a town of where it came from and its humble beginnings, as well as being a beautiful tourist attraction. Subdivisions are also important in a town's appearance to the rest of society, as they reflect the American Dream of a home, job, and family. Imagine how you would feel about living in a town that can't even take care of the part of it that was where it started or living in a subdivision that was dirty and the majority of the houses in a state of squalor. You wouldn't, as the majority of polite society would avoid places like these and choose a place that seemed more safe and neat.

In summation, the appearances of a building can be very important. They not only provide a look into the culture and social standing of a neighborhood or country, but also reflect on a person and society as a whole. It's the little things that count, and a little upkeep here and there can make a huge difference about how people perceive you.

ESSAY 3

Essay 9: Section 3, #14 – In what ways has the work of *one* artist, *one* musician, or *one* writer influenced your life?

An author of Holy Writ, *Ecclesiastes*, literally translated as “the Preacher” from the Hebrew language has impacted me with his ideas of meaning, purpose, vanity, injustice, and death. He is an individual in biblical canon and the author of at least 3 of its books. *Ecclesiastes* has been reputed for his wisdom and straightforward writing style and analysis of life. The influential work in question is named after himself.

To begin, *Ecclesiastes* has been such an influence on me because of his plain unbiased analysis of life. The very first chapter of *Ecclesiastes* describes the meaninglessness of it all: pursuits for beauty, approval, entertainment, money, or other types of gain. It is all termed “vanity” by “the Preacher” as life goes on, people die and are born, and the cycle continues. Since our lives are only a vapor in the vast stream of time, what are we living for and what do our lives mean when it will one day be gone and forgotten like the millions before us? This question and mentality has shaped my outlook on life and purpose in goals.

Furthermore, *Ecclesiastes*’ deep understanding of the all-pervasiveness and injustice of suffering and death have seriously influenced me by projecting me into a mode of much thought with a desire to relieve the oppressed. A powerful excerpt says that “Again, I observed all the oppression that takes place under the sun. I saw the tears of the oppressed, with no one to comfort them. The oppressors have great power, and their victims are helpless.” This knowledge carried a heavy influence, bouncing around in my head and having me realize the very real misery of individuals with desires and needs just like me, yet while mine is fulfilled they go on suffering. Through his writing, the world at large could not have come clearer as I saw others so unfortunate to have been born into a world of labor and sorrow.

Finally, *Ecclesiastes* expounded on wisdom’s meaning and value. This impacted me in varying incredible ways, mostly by raising questions. What was wisdom, which differed from “smarts”? What made a wise man? How was one to procure this special treasure, tantalized in so many ancient proverbs? Being the firm theist he was, *Ecclesiastes* acknowledged that true wisdom was to fear God, which was ultimate wisdom and purpose. The concluding phrase of his Ecclesiastical work profoundly states: “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is

the whole duty of man. For God will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing whether it be good or whether it be evil.”

In conclusion, “the Preacher” in Ecclesiastes expounded on powerful notions related to meaning, vanity, suffering, and wisdom. His writings imparted a new and unfamiliar energy to life, and relayed a power that completely transformed my mentality. This amazing writer may be dead and gone, but his influence lives on in each animated word of his inspired writing.