**My Water Body**

**Eckphrasis**

**Purpose**: The purpose of this assignment is to describe a water body that is important to you. It might be a beach, local spring, your shower, or the water fountain where you work. The choice is yours; however, you must describe to the audience why this source of water is personally significant. For example: It provides you with a sense of natural beauty, benefits (or harms) your health, facilitates hygiene/cleanliness, or it's simply fun, like a water park.

To accomplish your goal, you will need to marry qualitative content with quantitative measures in a persuasive manner. An assumption of this hybrid genre is that arguments of this type are more convincing than one approach alone, either a solely numbers-oriented method or a purely descriptive one.

**Requirements**

**Genre**: This essay follows in the tradition of the Greek [progymnasmata](http://rhetoric.byu.edu/Pedagogy/Progymnasmata/Progymnasmata.htm) (the classical writing exercises for teenagers) and is formally known as [ekphrasis](https://www.thoughtco.com/ekphrasis-description-term-1690585) (e.g. a visually oriented description that works to persuade an audience toward an opinion/interpretation). Illustrations of this [trope](http://rhetorica.net/tropes.htm) range from images of 9/11 with airplanes crashing into the Twin Towers (to argue for war) to a mother crying at the death of her son in a driveby (as an argument for gun control). This means your description should be persuasive.

**Format:** Your document should be typed in 12-point font (Ariel, Calibri or Times New Roman). All margins should be one inch. The essay should be double-spaced, about 2-5 pages, and include a crystalizing title.

**Source Material**: As a complement to this qualitative description, you should also do a water purity test of your chosen location. You can find these tests online, for example, on Amazon, for a reasonable price. Make sure that you choose a test that is appropriate for your site (i.e. don't use a salt water test kit for well water). This quantitative measure should inform/problematize your description. You may also decide to do some additional research on water quality in your area. Cite source information in the way that makes the most sense to you, APA and MLA format and hyperlinks are all appropriate.

**Evaluation Criteria/Assessment**

Apart from requiring [standard formal writing conventions](http://www.stetson.edu/other/writing-program/media/rubrictermpaper.pdf), except when you might work to offer something colloquial and/or something idiosyncratic, this paper is also being evaluated on: 1) Creativity, choosing an engaging water source and describing it in a accurate and vivid manner, and 2) Persuasiveness, combining the two types of information (qualitative/quantitative) in a fashion that reinforces your overall analysis/interpretation. Refer to the syllabus for more information about due dates, revision opportunities, and the final portfolio.