

“The Project Experiment”  
Journal Assignment Revision Assignment  
August 15th  
Due: August 17th

1.) Please read and give some thought to the following journal entry, which was written three days into Henry’s experiment in subsistence living at Walden Pond:

*“The Great Spirit makes indifferent all times and places. The place where he is seen is always the same, and indescribably pleasant to all our senses.”*

- Henry David Thoreau - *Journal* - July, 7th, 1845

2.) After you have given the above passage a bit of thought, compare this original entry to the following passage, which can be found in the “Sounds” chapter of *Walden*:

*“Any prospect of awakening or coming to life to a dead man makes indifferent all times and places. The place where that may occur is always the same, and indescribably pleasant to all our senses.”*

- Henry David Thoreau - *Walden*, “Solitude” - 1854

Think about the continuity of Henry’s thinking over time, and precisely how this continuity can be discerned in and through a careful comparison of these two passages. Next, note the subtle yet crucial changes that appear in the “revised” expression of his initial idea, paying particular attention to the manner in which these changes help to convey the shape of his thinking in its final form. Finally, give some thought to why this is such a great example of the art of revision itself, and why this activity often requires so much work, discipline, and experience.

**Assignment:** Once you have finished with the preliminary stages above, please revisit your own journal entry concerning interview preparation. Now that you have conducted your interview, and have yourself been interviewed in kind, what kind of changes would you make to your initial account of this process? What would you leave alone? Finally, was your actual interview experience so radically different than what you had expected that you might be tempted to change your initial entry entirely? Write down a few sentences in response to these questions in preparation for class tomorrow, and include plenty of details to explain your responses to each.