

“The Project Experiment”

Interview Preparation

August 11, 2011

Due August 14, 2011

**Directions:** Please read the following quotation from *Walden* and respond to it by completing both the pre-writing and journal activities listed below. **Please type your final entry, as others will need to read your work.** This should be around one page in length.

*“Nature and human life are as various as our several constitutions. Who shall say what prospect life offers to another? Could a greater miracle take place than for us to look through each other’s eyes for an instant? We should live in all the ages of the world in an hour; ay, in all the worlds of the ages. History, Poetry, Mythology!—I know of no reading of another’s experience so startling and informing as this would be.”*

*Walden, “Economy”*

1. **Preparation to write** – Pick the name of one of your classmates (with my assistance), and over the next few days think about how best to “look through” their “eyes for an instant.” Try to generate some interview questions that will help you to successfully discover some things about your friend that will result in a new appreciation of *how the world appears to them*. Think about the priorities of the conversation ahead of time, and ask the sort of questions that will lead to a greater understanding of what it is like *to be in the world as they are*. If you wish to really experience this individual’s life, you may want to schedule a time to help them complete the chores and obligations for which they are usually responsible. Ideally, you would be able to tag along with them through long nights of practices or other extra-curricular activities. However, as this is probably not possible, perhaps you could find an imaginative equivalent to this sort of activity. Use your imagination!

2. **Journal** – Write a journal entry which includes a very brief description of your “experiment,” devoting the bulk of the discussion to the following questions:

- Why do you think we as a society so readily judge each other without having experienced life outside of our own?
- How important is experience in shaping who we are? What can we gain as individuals by learning from others’ experiences?
- Did this experience make you more understanding about those times when you have been misunderstood, or less so?
- What have you learned about yourself by looking through your classmate’s eyes?
- How has this assignment helped you with your final project for this course?