**Environmental Ethics Essay**

Cognitive Skill: **Narrative**

**Assignment:**

In an essay or video, answer the following prompts:

1. Describe your worldview as it pertains to your relationship with the environment. Your response **must** include a discussion of at least four of the six “centrisms” and “ethics” indicated below.
2. How have your culture and background influenced your worldview (your family, heritage, religion, where you are from, etc)?
3. How have your personal experiences influenced your worldview (travels, experiences outside, camping trip, etc.)?
4. Optional: Ask a family member these questions (parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts/uncles, etc)

Important ideas/ Vocab to include are *anthropocentrism, biocentrism, ecocentrism, conservation ethic, preservation ethic, and development ethic* (defined below)*.*

We are trying to understand your perspective, so provide details that tell your personal story. Refer to your summer assignment if it would help explain your viewpoint, or if it changed the way you see an issue or the world.

**Ethics Vocabulary**

* **Ethics:** a branch of philosophy dealing with values relating to human conduct. Right and wrong or good and bad.

*Include at least four of the following vocab words in your essay:*

* **Anthropocentrism:** Human-centered view of our relationship with the environment (people are most important)
* **Biocentrism:** Assigns values to actions based on their effects on ALL living things (people aren’t more important)
* **Ecocentrism:** Judges actions in terms of their benefit or harm to the integrity of whole ecological systems (which consist of *abiotic* and *biotic* elements)
* **Preservation Ethic:** We should protect the natural environment in a pristine, unaltered state
* **Conservation Ethic:** Humans should put natural resources to use, but also recognize that we have a responsibility to manage resources wisely
* **Development Ethic:** Make changes to improve human life; this may or may not damage the environment