

PERSONAL CLIMATOLOGY

Everyone has their own personal view of climate. Elderly north country people love to tell stories of walking 5 miles to school through 3 feet of snow. Someone from Florida probably thinks Canton is way too cold, yet someone from Fairbanks probably thinks we're a bunch of lightweights. It just goes to show that we all perceive climate in different ways ... skiers love winter and lots of snow, whereas those that drive a lot probably hate snow and the problems it brings.

As we begin our exploration of climate, it will be helpful to me to know a little bit about where you're coming from ... what ideas, assumptions, and experiences you bring to the course. This information is strictly to help me "meet you where you are" and help you get the most out of the course.

ASSIGNMENT

Write a short autobiography that begins with your personal history and includes your experience and perception of climate, seasons, extremes, affects on your lifestyle and why you are taking this course. Also describe your perceptions of and experiences with science.

Include a section on where you get your weather information. Do you watch CNN or the Weather Channel or check your iPhone app before you get dressed, or just chance it? What do you do with this climate information? Do you have friends or family that live in a drastically different climate? How does that affect them?

Devote at least a page or two to your "science autobiography" where you explain your concept of what "science" is, your experience with science (eg. in school, camp, summer job, home sick with Discovery Channel, etc.), and your attitude toward science (especially interested to hear what the non-science majors have to say). What do you see as the strengths you bring to this course and what do you perceive as your weaknesses? What is it about natural science that SLU requires you to take a semester of it? What do you expect of this semester of Global Climate? This will probably take a few pages, preferably typed. Two to three pages double-spaced is a reasonable length.

DUE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2022

