

UNST 124g fall 2011  
*this I believe part 2*

## 1 introduction

Last week you were asked to write a short literary in response to the question “How does the cultural environment—the community—in which you grew up affect your view of ‘the natural environment’ today?” The question was inspired by Margaret Mead’s *This I Believe* essay, in which she discussed the importance of culture in shaping human opportunity and development. In *Spirit of place and the value of nature in the American West*, Dan Flores (1998) argues that we should not consider culture in isolation but instead recognize the importance of *spirit of place* in our beliefs and actions.

## 2 assignment

How does the landscape in which you grew up affect your view of “the environment” today? Please write a short literary (that is, not a personal narrative) essay to answer this question. Start by writing an outline that includes a clear thesis, points you will use to discuss that thesis, and a conclusion. Limit your essay to 5 or 6 paragraphs and follow the written assignment guidelines in the syllabus. Please turn in both the outline and the essay.

## 3 references

Flores, D. (1998). *A sense of the American west*. Spirit of place and the value of nature in the American west (pp. 31-40) J.S. Sherow (Ed.). University of New Mexico Press.