



The Stories We Tell: Reflective Writing to Examine How Nature, Diversity, and Place Influence Our Teaching

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Link to the recording: <https://youtu.be/NTp2C4X7t7w>

eePRO post: <https://naaee.org/eeopro/learning/webinars/eeinspire-webinar-stories-we-tell>

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See Naama's reflective writing at <https://www.mayla.earth/hope-stories>

Highlights of the chat transcript:

Welcome!

- Jimena Cuenca: Hi everyone! So excited for this webinar! I'm Jimena, in Anchorage, AK and I'm with NAAEE :D
- Stephanie Somerville: Hi! My name is Stephanie Somerville, from Costa Rica, but I'm currently a graduate student at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.
- Kara Haas: Hi all, My name is Kara Haas, from Michigan, I'm a science education graduate student at Michigan State University and an educator at Kellogg Biological Station.
- Tom Neppel: Hi everyone! I'm Tom Neppel, a practicing Landscape Architect and faculty at Iowa State University here in Ames, Iowa. Excited to hear from you all!

What word comes to mind when you think about "nature"?

- Elizabeth Waage: Trees
- Mollye Maxner: life
- Morgan Greene: joy
- Stephanie Somerville: home
- Mary Morris: fun

- Kara Haas: love
- Ronnie Order: green
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: Beauty
- Kelsey Desmond: forest
- Jennifer Brundage: calm
- Amanda Roberts: wonder
- Mollye Maxner: grounding
- Stephanie Beauregard: amazing
- Sarah Bodor: Peace
- Bekkah Scharf: home
- Mariama Dryak: green
- Roberta Hunter: Restorative
- Stephanie Hummel: Happiness
- Gizelle Hurtado: outside :-)
- Ivy Rutledge:green
- Marissa Jayawickrema: Leaf
- Marisa East: clean
- Aubrey Davis: peace
- Wanda Bryant: majestic
- Alicia Carlson: life
- Tom Neppel: green
- Bathsheba Bryant-Tarpeh: Serenity
- Sandra Blumer: natural
- Sarah Stoeckl: Trees
- Ivy Rutledge:calm
- Amy Clanin: mission
- Leia Hamlyn: Outside
- Dolores Weisbaum: grounding
- Ami Patel: beautiful!
- Sandra Frost: Critters
- Sara Grillo: Forest
- Katie Lynch: interconnections
- Judy Braus: my parents

Highlights from the chat:

- Judy Braus: Exchange more heartbeats than business cards...Drew has such a way with words
- Gizelle Hurtado: I am inspired to write!
- Kat Hill: Those were all beautiful pieces that you shared :)
- Sandra Frost: Just inspired to hear and feel the power of the beautiful words.
- S P: Yes, all of those excerpts where lovely
- Tom Neppl: Yes, thank you for sharing these readings.
- Wanda Bryant: I like the idea of writing in book margins. I usually add bullets, highlight, or underline
- **Naamal De Silva:** Take some time - until 2:47 or so to write about your relationship to nature, to your work, to whatever comes up based on what we just heard.
- **Naamal De Silva:** Don't worry about what you write being polished - it can be bullet points, stream of consciousness, a poem of your own or something you remembered - anything that comes up for you.
- **Naamal De Silva:** Hope the writing is going well! I don't want to disrupt the flow of your thoughts but wanted to check in. We are about half way through the time. Feel free to type questions for me in the chat.
- **Naamal De Silva:** I'm also reading through the earlier questions and comments and can address them once we come back together. Happy writing!
- Aubrey Davis: it was peaceful :)
- Sara Grillo: Lovely, a good break from the day.
- Alicia King: writing is always so 'freeing'
- Melissa Taggart: Super restorative
- Roberta Hunter: I welcomed the prompt and space to write in a nonacademic way
- Gizelle Hurtado: It was great. I have been meaning to write for some time and had not.
- Sarah Stoeckl: Fun! A nice break for solitude and reflection but with others. It would be nice to see people or their names, to have a sense of who is here.
- Judy Braus: It was a great break from the day! Thank you!

- S P: The community aspect, even virtual, was more supportive than I realized. I don't know that I would have been able to write so freely left to myself unguided
- Bathsheba Bryant-Tarpeh: It was great! It's been years since I have done reflective writing like this!
- Aubrey Davis: I wrote about how people tend to notice the mountains, but ignore all of the beautiful life on the prairie. I love all of the intricate details in the different species of grasses, there's so much beauty if you just look. I wrote "the mountains scream while the prairie whispers."
- S P: @Aubrey That's beautiful
- Tom Neppl: I recalled memories I haven't thought of for a while.
- Barbara Fellenstein: Grateful for the opportunity! I reflected on my own ideas of nature versus order and the function and purpose that I might serve in the niche of it all-- my community and the wilderness.
- Maggie Allen: I wrote about "floating" - both how I feel like I am floating in my personal life sometimes and how I love floating on top of the water .. that suspension and feeling "rootless"
- Roberta Hunter: I liked seeing how what I was writing flowed and wandered and though I didn't know where it was going, it ended up being strongly connected to a present issue
- Wanda Bryant: seeing other perspectives are definitely helpful.
- Judy Braus: I wrote a little story from my childhood...it brought it all back to me...
- Sandy Marin: I wrote about my earliest memory, inspired by the passage Naamal shared, and then thought about my earliest memory of being in nature.
- Sandra Frost: I work for the FS, and I have been in a virtual duty location for many years. It seems that I WRITE all day long -- but it is a bureaucratic, stilted, artificial style of writing that tends to hide and obfuscate clarity -- rather than expose truths. It is freeing to have the chance to leave that style behind and find words to convey that which is more organic and central.
- Sandra Frost: LOVELY!!!!!!
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: I love hearing all of your stories. Thank you for sharing with all of us :)
- Roberta Hunter: I love Nel Noddings' work

- Melissa Taggart: Thank you so much! This was wonderful
- Henry Ernsberger: Thank you all!
- S P: Thank you so much for this! Would love to attend more programs like this one!
- Kelsey Desmond: thank you!
- Bryce DuBois: Thank you so much, Naamal!
- Leia Hamlyn: Thank you!!
- Stephanie Somerville: Thank you very much!
- Roberta Hunter: Thank you so much!
- Celeste Royer: Thank you so much. This was wonderful!
- Bathsheba Bryant-Tarpeh: Thank you!
- Alicia King: Thank you - permission to write - always welcomed!
- Sara Grillo: Thank you Thank you Thank you!
- Katie Lajeunesse Connette: Thank you Naamal!
- Gizelle Hurtado: Thank you!
- Ashley Alred: Thank you! This was lovely.
- Kara Haas: thank you!
- Laurie Alexander: Lovely. Thanks so much!
- Aubrey Davis: It did feel like a meditation and was very needed. Thanks so much!
- Tom Neppi: Thank you!
- Maggie Allen: Thank you so much!
- Kara Haas: the format was really nice, the mix of quotes, Naamal's personal reflections and the prompt for writing were just perfect.
- Julia Fregonara: Well said!!
- Sandra Frost: Love this webinar -- and love the eeINSPIRE series!! Thank you for making this all possible!
- Lilly Jensen: Thank you!
- Sandra Frost: Thank you!!
- Keya Jackson: Thanks!