

Why are you taking this class?

Your first activity in Environmental Science will be to reflect on why you signed up for this class. Before you start thinking about how you will do this, view at the TED talk “Photos that changed the world” by Jonathan Klein.

Your task is to carefully select one, high-resolution image that represents the reason why you are sitting in this class right now. Some things to think about in selecting an image are:

- What do you hope to learn this year?
- Is there something that you are wrestling about?
- Are you just curious?
- Have you had an experience that has changed the way you think or look at the world?
- Do you have unanswered questions?

You will then share the image and a 2-3 minute story about why you chose this particular one.

The story that accompanies your image should:

- be clear and focused.
- have ideas that are challenging.
- have a universal resonance, that others can relate to.
- be engaging and hold the viewers attention.
- inspire the viewer to want to ask questions, rather than just passively absorb what is being said.
- be about you, your thoughts, your feelings, your personal challenges . . .
- have a mix of both the first and third person point of view.
- have a clear tone. Is it straightforward, somber, hopeful, upbeat, positive, funny, gut wrenching, introspective . . .? You decide on a tone that suits your style.

Be creative and imaginative in the sources of your images. Think about photographs you might have taken rather than using someone else's. Objects can be photographed or scanned to put them in digital format. But remember all images created by others need to be correctly acknowledged.