

## The Peace of Wild Things Formative Assessment #4

Directions: Using ONE of the prompts below, draft your thesis statement.

- There are writers who have learned much from the natural world. Write an essay in which you use at least two of these writers and their texts, as well as your own experience, to develop this idea.
- There are writers who have looked to nature as a great source of joy, strength, and peace. Write an essay in which you use at least two of these writers and their texts, as well as your own experience, to develop this idea.
- There are those who advocate for wilderness preservation and those who advocate for wilderness development. Write an essay in which you use at least two writers and their texts, as well as your own experience, to develop the claim that preserving our wilderness is necessary.

### Some tips on writing a strong thesis statement

- A strong thesis offers a **clear, direct response to the writing prompt**. Be certain that you understand what the prompt is asking you to do.
- A strong thesis is **valuable**. It offers readers the writer's most valuable insight. This insight often results from close reading and critical thinking.
- A strong thesis is **precise**. That is, it uses words that say specifically what you mean. Avoid imprecise words that leave your readers guessing. For example, consider the imprecise words below:
  - interesting* (what does this really mean? Interesting in a positive way? Negative?)
  - good* (how good is *good*?)
  - meaningful* (how? In what way/s?)
- A strong thesis is **unified**. That is, it offers one key idea.
- A strong thesis leaves its readers certain that they understand the writer's intent in this essay.