SENSE OF PLACE ESSAY
40 points

length minimum: 300 words
length maximum: none

Deadline: (16-week course) second Friday of term
(12-week course) first Friday of term
(4-week course) first Wednesday of term

The OBJECTIVES of this assignment are for you to:
• Provide some basic information about yourself;
• Describe your higher education plan as it now stands;
• Follow instructions to develop, write, proof, and submit an original essay.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Tell about yourself and about where you have lived during your life. Tell about non-academic activities that you enjoy (sports you play and/or follow, type(s) of music you enjoy, your favorite restaurants or type of food, etc.). Tell about the place or places most special to you. In each case, be sure to focus on how place and/or region affects or has affected these parts of your life.

2. Tell about your travel experiences—where have you traveled and for what purpose? What is the most interesting place you have visited? If you have not traveled much, that is fine too, and if that’s the case, tell about a few places you would like to visit someday, and why you want to go there. Your level of travel experience will have no effect on the grade you receive for this assignment.

3. Describe your academic plan and how you intend to use your education. If you are still unsure, identify major(s) you’re considering and what careers interest you. For example, do you want to have your own business or be an entrepreneur? Do you want to work in an office, institution, or outdoors? Do you want to work with the public? Would you prefer working in a tightknit team, or do you prefer working independently? Do you like to create things? Do you like to fix things? Do you like to help people? How important is job security to you? How important is financial security?

4. Save your file in MS Word (.doc or .docx) format and upload it to the D2L Dropbox by the stated deadline.
FORMAT REQUIREMENTS

Sources: Not applicable for this paper assignment.

Length Minimum: 300 words

Heading: list ONLY your NAME at the top left line of your paper; do not give the paper a title or make a title page. Skip one space and begin writing immediately below your name.

Citation Format: Not applicable.

Citation Style: Not applicable.

Submission: Submit completed work only in MS Word file format (.doc or .docx) to the online dropbox. Files submitted in any other format will not be graded. EMAILED SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Assessment of Writing Quality
Papers in this course are assigned to fulfill General Education curriculum requirements. Accordingly, papers are graded for writing quality.

Seek Help with Written Work
It is a good practice to have a friend or family member read your completed paper for clarity and to proof for errors before you submit it for grading. Relatives are especially good for this, since they may be more straightforward than roommates or classmates who may not want to offend you. Always appreciate any constructive criticism you get on your writing. Your geography professor will not provide any, nor will he look over your paper before you submit it to him for a grade. If you need help with spelling, grammar, syntax, sentence construction and the like, contact OSU’s many campus or online writing centers. You have already paid for their help, so be sure to use it.

ADDITIONAL HELP
The OSU Writing Center will assist you in developing your one-page, single-spaced essay: http://english.okstate.edu/writing/.

Try to say as much as possible in as few words as possible. Use simple words and do not repeat. Write, reduce, and rewrite.
GRADING RUBRIC

Mechanics (sum of penalties not to exceed 20 points)

Spelling: misspellings and erroneous use of homonyms will receive a penalty of two (2) points each.

Punctuation and capitalization: omissions and errors, including comma splices, as well as incorrect capitalization, will be penalized two (2) points per instance. See the following examples of (a) correct punctuation, and (b) how to wreck your prose with comma splices:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>If you cannot identify a comma splice, look it up before you submit your paper, because the comma splice is a very common error in college papers. It occurs when a comma separates two independent clauses. That is the period’s job, but sometimes a semicolon works better. Some famous writers can get away with an occasional comma splice; however, you should avoid it until you are also a famous writer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>If you cannot identify a comma splice, look it up before you submit your paper, the comma splice is a very common error in college papers. It occurs when a comma separates two independent clauses, that is the period’s job, sometimes a semicolon works better. Some famous writers can get away with an occasional comma splice, you should avoid it until you are also a famous writer.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Capitalization: Capitalization is also a very common challenge for some beginning college writers. Most students who have difficulty with capitalization tend toward over-capitalization. Try to err on the side of undercapitalization, use a dictionary, and seek assistance if capitalization is confusing to you.

Grammar: Grammatical errors will be penalized two (2) point per instance. Grammatical errors are tricky and almost always unknown to the writer. Spoken grammatical errors are often tolerated or missed in casual conversation, but your college writing assignment is not casual conversation. Be sure to check your work with a word-processor (i.e., MS Word) so that your submission does not contain grammatical errors.

Content

Content of this assignment is subjectively evaluated after the following objective assessment of writing quality is examined.
**Length** (penalty = proportion score, based on actual length)
Papers that do not meet the length minimum will be graded for mechanics and content, and will then receive a grade proportional to the percentage of the minimum length listed above.

**Example**
Papers will be graded according to the specifications above using this form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal Narrative Essay</th>
<th>Possible Points: 40</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student: Peter Pistolero</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identified Mechanical Errors</th>
<th>Total Errors</th>
<th>Penalty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spelling/Word Choice</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punctuation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capitalization</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar/Syntax</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Penalty (max. 20 pts):</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subtotal: 24

Minimum Length: 300
Submission Length: 278
Length Deduction: 7.3%
Points Earned: 22

*Items in gray = problem noted, but not penalized
Additional Notes: Be sure to have a friend proof your work or visit the Writing Center
prepositions seem to be an issue*