

9/15/2016

**A Walk in the Woods – writing assignment – Mr. Roets, American Literature**

During today's walk in Wintergreen woods, you need to be actively observing nature in all of its splendor and messiness. Look at details you might otherwise ignore. Amble, don't speed walk. Use all of your senses, and, like Thoreau, try to live in the moment. The point of the exercise is to "transcend" your daily perspective of life and instead intuitively sense some truth that you find echoed in nature. You are following in the footsteps of Emerson, Thoreau, Whitman and Dickinson here.

When we return to the classroom you will take some quick notes on what you observed and then you will turn one of those observations into a more or less poetic "insight." How does what you observe in nature provide you with insight into your life or into humanity? Use your readings of our transcendentalists and poets as guidance, but rely upon your own observations and your own intuitive leaps for inspiration. This is a creative (and not very long) writing assignment, and you really cannot be wrong, as long as you are true – as Emerson said over and over – to yourself. One page in length is sufficient. Due by end of class.