

Weekly Reading Journal

Directions: Please answer each question below. The reading journal is worth 30 points.

1. **Schedule.** Please list this week's assigned reading(s) below, noting the author(s), title(s), and total number of pages. Then, make a schedule for how you will complete it. (4pts.)

Author(s): Gaylord Nelson, EPA, Earth Island Journal, Gaylord Nelson, John McConnell, Flourish Magazine

Title(s): 1971 Letter to CBS, EPA summary of the Endangered Species Act, Gaylord Nelson notes for Earth Day Speech, "The Battle for Earth Day", "Earth Day Proclamation", "Earth Day's Forgotten Founder"

Total pp.: 12

<i>Day of the week:</i>	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
<i>Pages planned:</i>		12					
<i>Pages read:</i>		12					
<i>Total time:</i>		4 hrs					

2. **Summarize.** Write 2-3 sentences summarizing the text's main idea. If a work has either a thesis statement or statement of purpose, please type it below with the page number. And, if there is more than one text, please write a summary for each text. (4pts.)

1971 Letter to CBS:

Senator Gaylord Nelson, in his letter to CBS, expresses first his commendation of their commitment to environmental awareness, before providing some observations about their programming. He expresses that he intends to honor Earth Week, not Earth Day, in an effort to bring political attention to environmental issues.

"The Battle for Earth Day":

This article describes the conflict between two organizers for Earth Week 1990 and Earth Day 20. Dennis Hayes, the original organizer of Earth Day, found that other individuals (Ed Furia) had been promoting their own campaigns, which featured concerning man conquers earth imagery and fundraising merchandise. The lesson presented is that nobody owns Earth Day, nor the Earth.

"Earth Day Proclamation"

As new views of the world from outer space opened the eyes of the public, John McConnell gives a proclamation about the need to change the course of the environment. He encourages all to sign the pledge and raise funds for the cause of protecting the Earth.

"Earth Day's Forgotten Founder"

This article talks in depth about the founder of Earth Day, John McConnell, who originally coined the term and got governmental recognition of the day. The article speaks on the importance of Earth day, and the meaning McConnell intended it to carry.

“Senator Gaylord Nelson’s 1970 Earth Day Address”

In this speech, Senator Nelson urges Americans to unite behind a national movement that values environmental quality as highly as economic growth. He links clean air and water to broader issues like poverty, war, and urban decay, calling for an “Ecology Congress” and new policies that protect both people and nature. Nelson emphasizes that the technology exists to meet these challenges, but the true question is whether the nation has the will to act.

“Gaylord Nelson, notes for Earth Day Speech”

“Summary of the Endangered Species Act”

This overview explains the 1973 law that protects threatened and endangered plants, animals, and their habitats. It outlines the roles of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries, which list species and ensure federal actions do not harm them or their critical habitats. The act prohibits activities such as harming, trading, or transporting listed species and includes pesticide regulations to safeguard both wildlife and the nation’s food supply.

3. **Analyze.** Select *four quotes* from the reading(s). They should not all come from the same chapter/selection! Type each quote below with its page number and explain how it relates to the text’s main idea. (10pts.)

1. “The Endangered Species Act (ESA) provides a program for the conservation of threatened and endangered plants and animals and the habitats in which they are found.” (Summary of the Endangered Species Act, pg 1)

This opening statement establishes the central purpose of the law—protecting species and the ecosystems they need to survive.

2. “The law requires federal agencies, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the NOAA Fisheries Service, to ensure that actions they authorize, fund, or carry out are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat of such species.” (Summary of the Endangered Species Act, pg 1)

This highlights how the ESA compels government action to prevent harm, underscoring the text’s focus on proactive conservation.

3. “How we survive is the critical question.”

Nelson frames environmental protection as more than survival. It’s about the quality of life we choose to create, which aligns with the speech’s central call for a new ethic of responsibility.

4. “Pull together a new national coalition whose objective is to put Gross National Quality on a par with Gross National Product.”

This shows his push to measure progress by environmental and social well-being, echoing the main idea that national success should be defined beyond economic growth.

4. **Connect.** Write 2-3 sentences connecting this week's reading(s) to other assigned readings and/or the lecture(s). (4pts.)

What comes to mind for me is the attention drawn to the idea that it is not man's place to dominate the earth, instead to nurture it. This is contrasted to our earlier readings, where it is emphasized that the public believes the place of nature is to serve man. What especially comes to mind is the ideas presented in "The Battle for Earth Day" where it is conveyed that nobody owns Earth Day just as nobody owns Nature.

5. **Apply.** Think about your own life. Where can you use/apply the knowledge gleaned from the reading? (4pts.)

I can use these ideas by making everyday choices that balance quality of life with environmental care. Things like conserving energy and water, reducing waste, and supporting products or companies that protect ecosystems. This also applies in community participation: voting for policies that safeguard habitats, joining local clean-up efforts, or advocating for greener urban planning all reflect the call to put "quality on a par with quantity."

6. **Reflect.** Did you hold to your intended reading schedule? How did you improve from last week, and how will you improve next week? (4pts.)

I held to my schedule, and will continue with the same schedule.