

# Final Project Proposal: Data Gardens

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## Topsoil

I need to spend more time in the library for me to feel comfortable – but I can give a rough idea of where I think the project can go.

“Topsoil is the upper, outermost layer of soil, usually the top 5 inches” –  
Wikipedia

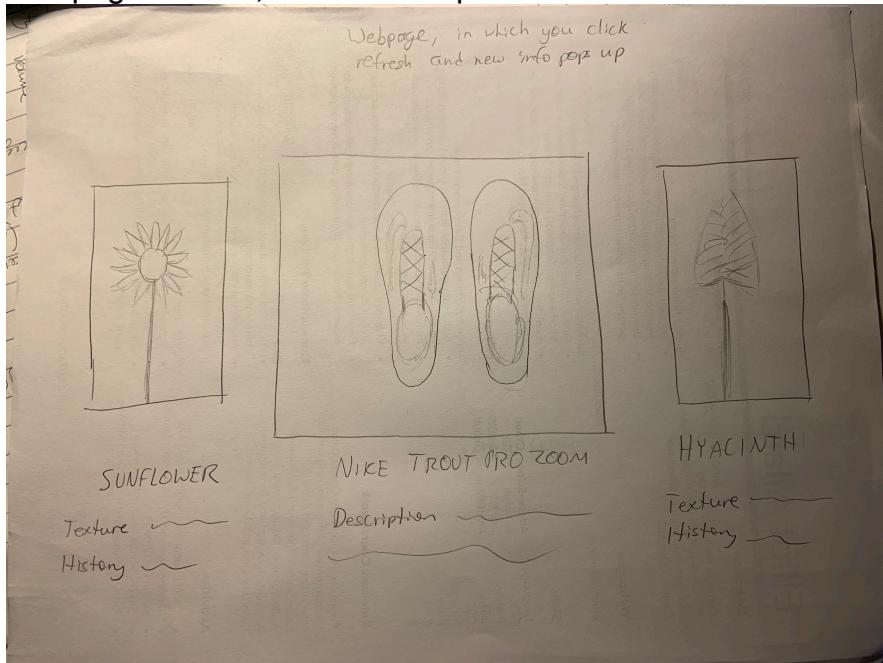
The two objects of flowers & cleats came together over the many baseball practices and games I attended in grades 3 – 5. At that age, we were learning how to be a good sports player: to be obedient, to be quick, to be reactive. At the same time, my mind wandered while playing the outfield – surveying the dandelions and crabgrass that seemed to cover the surface I stood on. Turning them with my cleats, picking them, blowing them. “what makes them so yellow? I love the texture ELLIOT! What are you DOING out there! straightens back and yells Nothing!”.

The questions I want to ask through this project –

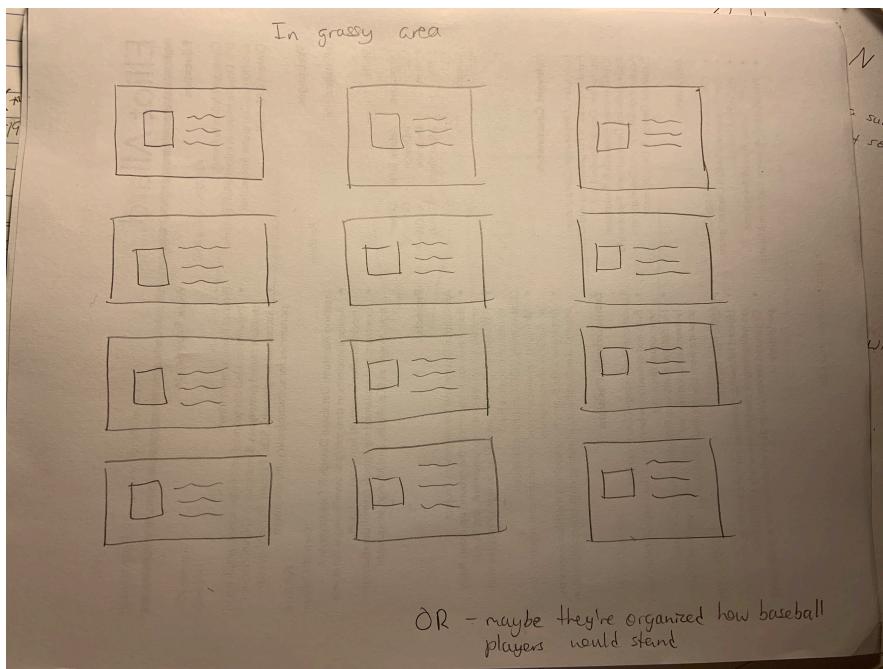
- How do objects such as cleats & flowers play a role in my life?
  - o In the development of character, engaging with them again, memory
  - o Do they play a role opposite to one another? Parallel? Indifferent?
  - o Attaching global forces such as flowers and the manufacturing of cleats to personal moments of spacing out, being disobedient.
- What does topsoil have to do with this?
  - o As the shared space, material in which these two objects/goals function
- What does webscraping have to do with this?
  - o As a means of collecting the material of flower and cleats
  - o Topsoil as metaphor for webscraping, the first 5 inches of the internet, the exterior of a huge physical, mental architecture of systems
- How do globalist-capitalists work on the internet?
  - o Is there a way we can reconcile with the social & ecological damage that companies such as Nike have caused?
- Whose images are these?
- How can I give sentiment to the data I am using, suggesting there is an author, a lived existence on the other end? How do I acknowledge this when dealing with a corporation such as Adidas, or Nike?
- Will add more as I read more ...

In terms of labor, I have headstart, as I have much of the technical aspects of webscraping already done. I'd hope to scrape from a couple more sites, possibly build an index of sports brand cleat homepages, as well as getting from a few more flower blogs (maybe using flowers that are more commonplace). In terms of visual, this is something I'll have to grapple with. Below are 2 versions -

Webpage version, with Javascript.



Physical Printouts, with randomized information about each.



Scholars I'm thinking of reading / arguments & topics I want to incorporate:

- Waste and Want – Susan Strasser
- The undersea network – Nicole Starosielski
- <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Globalism>
  - o [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul\\_James\\_\(academic\)](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_James_(academic))
  - o John Ralston Saul – The Collapse of Globalism
  - o Digital Globalization
    - Everest can you help me with this one?
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tulip\\_mania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tulip_mania)
- [https://cmu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991001525999704436&context=L&vid=01CMU\\_INST:01CMU&lang=en&search\\_scope=MyInst\\_and\\_CI&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=Everything&query=any,contains,flower%20global&offset=0](https://cmu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991001525999704436&context=L&vid=01CMU_INST:01CMU&lang=en&search_scope=MyInst_and_CI&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=Everything&query=any,contains,flower%20global&offset=0)
  - o Favored Flowers – Catherine Ziegler
- [https://cmu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=elsevier\\_sdoi\\_10\\_1016\\_j\\_jesp\\_2012\\_03\\_011&context=PC&vid=01CMU\\_INST:01CMU&lang=en&search\\_scope=MyInst\\_and\\_CI&adaptor=Primo%20Central&tab=Everything&query=any,contains,baseball%20philosophy&offset=0](https://cmu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=elsevier_sdoi_10_1016_j_jesp_2012_03_011&context=PC&vid=01CMU_INST:01CMU&lang=en&search_scope=MyInst_and_CI&adaptor=Primo%20Central&tab=Everything&query=any,contains,baseball%20philosophy&offset=0)
  - o The title looks interesting ... collective punishment?