**Observation Experience**

I’m planning to make my students participate in a clean-up project (hopefully through Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment <http://arlingtonenvironment.org/>) and then write about that for their observation essay. To prepare for that essay, I plan to have them do a lot of practice observations in the classroom and around the campus. I may also have them read one or both of the articles below, which describe the various types of litter/pollution that make their way into the rivers.

[Buerger, Megan. “The History of the Anacostia River.” Washington Post 2 May 2012. Web. 6 July 2012.](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/the-history-of-the-anacostia-river/2012/05/01/gIQA1VuAxT_story.html)

[Buerger, Megan. “The Potomac River, in Good Health and Bad.” Washington Post 2 May 2012. Web. 6 July 2012.](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/the-potomac-river-in-good-health-and-bad/2012/05/01/gIQAQUuAxT_story.html)

I’m going to ask my students to commit to an observation event the second week of classes, so that it will be on their calendar well ahead of time. I’m planning to offer a couple of events so that they have a little bit of flexibility.

So far, there are a few good options for environmental service experiences the weekend of Sept. 15-16. I plan to keep looking to see if more open up as it gets closer to September.

Saturday 9/15, 1pm-3pm: Barcroft Park trash collection and tallying. Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment and several other groups are participating in this event. This is the information they sent me in an email:

The event will take place from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Barcroft Park in Arlington. We will meet in front of the parking garage, 4200 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. (Directions are below.) This event includes a tally of the trash collected organized in conjunction with the International Coastal Cleanup and Virginia Waterways Cleanup Day.  
Please have everyone in your group wear sturdy shoes that can get wet. Gloves, trash bags, tally sheets, snacks and water will be provided. You are encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle. Long pants and sleeves are a good idea to avoid poison ivy. Sunscreen is also recommended.  
[<http://arlingtonenvironment.org/getinvolved/>]

Saturday 9/15, 10am-12pm: Invasive plant removal at Tuckahoe Park, run by Arlington County Parks and Rec. This is the information posted on their website about plant removal events:  
If you have your own garden gloves and tools, please bring them along. Some supplies will be provided. Wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty, including long pants, long sleeves, sturdy shoes, and perhaps a hat. You may also want to bring along a reusable water bottle.  
[<http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/ParksRecreation/scripts/parks/ParksRecreationScriptsParksInvasiveEvents.aspx>]