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Short Essay on the Weather

The instructions that follow are for writing an essay that uses your experience with big weather events to think about who you've been and who you are now. You can think of an essay as being any kind of short, nonfiction (not made up) writing that tries to make meaning out of what's real in the world.

Instructions:

1. Think to a time far back in your life in which you experienced the weather in an overwhelming way. It could a time when you experienced a snowstorm, or a windstorm, or very hot weather, or very wet weather—just something where the world was shaped by the weather in an extreme way. Now write down what you experienced. Try to make it vivid for your reader, so that your reader can feel what you felt then.
2. Now, think to a time much more recent in your life in which you experienced the weather in an overwhelming way. It doesn't have to be the same kind of weather event as in step 1, but it should be something that was just as overwhelming. Now write down what you experienced. Try to make it vivid for your reader, so that your reader can feel what you felt then.
3. Now figure out what the connections are between the two moments in your life, and write about those connections. Did you feel the same thing, recently, as you felt so long ago? If not, what's changed? Does looking at your response to something recent help you understand what was going on with you long ago? Or the opposite—does looking at something from long ago help you understand what was going on recently, or even what is going on for you right now? You don't have to tie anything up neatly: just think of this as an opportunity to think on paper.