Question-generating Project

Field Biology

The purpose of this activity is: 1) To allow you to practice your skills of observation in a field setting, and 2) to give you practice in creating and refining a scientific question. The questions generated through this activity may be used during class projects in the first quarter of this class. Please work individually on this project.

1. Describe an interesting setting on campus by giving a brief description of the plants, animals, and environment. Also include a drawing of your setting.

2. Upon which element or elements of this setting are you focusing? Be specific – if you are interested in a single tree, or a single animal burrow, be sure to make that known. Draw a picture, diagram, or map for clarity.

3. What are some potential interactions or influences for the element or elements you are studying? Include interactions with plants, animals, and **abiotic factors** (non-living portions of the environment). Don't forget interactions with humans. List at least 5 possibilities. You do not have to necessarily think about cause and effect relationships; in this class, our studies will focus on correlations rather than cause/effect.

4. For each element you are looking at, come up with "measuring words" that indicate what you will measure when you are collecting data. The measuring words should make clear WHAT you will measure and HOW (in a general sense) you could measure it.

5. Using your rough questions from number 4 and your measuring words from number 5, write 3-5 questions using the following format "What is the relationship between _____ of _____ and _____ of

_____?”.