

Plant Ritual

Describe a ritual relationship that you currently have or have had in the past with the use of a plant. This relationship should be one of a repeated use over a period of time of at least 6 months. The plant may be any sort of drug-producing or food-producing plant, except, do not describe a relationship with any illegal plant or illegal drug from a plant. Ritual relationship means a kind of intentional / thoughtful, repeated use of the plant or plant product.

Examples could be relationships with coffee, tea, any of various herbal “teas”, chocolate (cacao), betel, tobacco, mints, any of numerous spices, cooking herbs, grains, rice, fruits, vegetables, herbal medications, herbal cosmetic products, plant-based incense, and so on. It need not involve ingestion of the plant. For example, the growing and appreciating of particular flowers or aromatic plants could be the basis of a ritual relationship. So could the chopping of wood for use in making fires.

For example, “I eat bread made from wheat every day” would not be an appropriate ritual relationship for this assignment, but something based on “I have a family tradition of making and baking bread on Sunday afternoons, a tradition that was passed on from my grandmother to my mother to me...” could be the basis for such a ritual relationship.

The assignment consists of describing such a ritual relationship for two (2) plants or plant products. There is no length requirement, but give me enough detail to understand your meaning. The assignment should be submitted online via Blackboard (<http://courses.ithaca.edu>) by 12 PM on Monday, Aug 31.

The purpose of this assignment is to think about the role of plants and plant ritual in your life. Another purpose is to practice describing your thoughts in writing in a clear way. You will receive a participation point for submitting this assignment.

I encourage you to think creatively about the ways in which you interact with plants in your life. Don't necessarily make this assignment about the most obvious and easy plants to write about, such as coffee may be for many folks. Be creative and think deeply.

Have fun!