

**Sustainable Systems
Parsons School of Design
Professor Beau Rhee
Final Assignment is due May 3, 2018**

For your final assignment in our Sustainable Systems class, you will be asked to respond to the below three prompts.

1. REDESIGN

Choose an object that you use daily or weekly and re-design this object. Identify in writing and in sketches the problems with this object in terms of its sustainability that we have discussed in class: materials, supply chain, cradle-to-cradle, VOCs (volatile organic compounds) off gassing, water-runoff, etc. Propose a redesign of this object. Create 2 sketches and write a 2-3 paragraph product pitch explaining why this new design is far superior and solves the problems identified above.

2. RESEARCH (Two essays, each 3 pages double spaced)

A. Research the work of the environmental activism project Billion Oyster Project and its impact on the NYC harbor (<https://billionoysterproject.org/>) and write a short 750 word essay (3 pages double spaced) linking the group's work to the *Oyster* reading by Drew Smith & the *Mannahatta* readings by Eric Sanderson of the Wildlife Conservation Agency. *Mannahatta* is a book which traces the geological history of Manhattan, human impact and redesign of the natural landscape and Manhattan's future.

In this research-based essay, you will be expected to:

- have a thesis statement & point of view on the capacity of human beings to change ecology and landscape (for better or for worse) and what this means for the future / your futures. What are exciting potential solutions? Hazards?
- cite specific examples and facts from the readings and your research to back up your point of view

B. Research the work of a sustainable fashion or design brand of your choice (Eileen Fisher 2020 is a great example <https://www.eileenfisher.com/vision-2020/>) and write a 750 word essay (3 pages double spaced) linking this brand to the documentaries "True Cost" and "Made in L.A." (both documentaries are available through course reserves) Why is this particular brand inspiring to you? As designers and artists in training, what are some of the key points that you are learning of to be conscious of while making / creating / producing, and Why?

In this personal essay, you will be expected to:

- explain why you chose this particular brand and what its work symbolizes to you
- have a personal point of view of how *your approach* to design, making and production may have changed throughout this course
- explain some of the main issues that you would like to focus on in your upcoming careers, and why these issues are important. (i.e. materials? supply chain? labor?)

3. REFLECT / ASSESSMENT

All semester long, we have discussed the importance of assessment & data gathering as a way to problem-solve issues / systems and propose solutions. Please turn in your partner work on waste reduction that you have been working on each week with your partner.

Example: If Anna is keeping tabs on Brian, Anna will turn in the assessment sheet for Brian, and Brian will turn in the assessment sheet for Anna.