Topic for Essay 6: *Wilderness and the American Mind*  
(chapters 13-Epilogue)

Write a three- to four-page response to the following:

During the past hundred years or so, the private, the poetic, and the religious have remained very important components in the perceptions and practices of American wilderness preservation. But this period has also seen a tremendous increase in the roles played by the public, the political, and the scientific. Using examples of these drawn (mostly) from the last five chapters of Nash’s *Wilderness and the American Mind* (pp. 238-390), analyze two or three of what you found to be the most interesting of the forces and players in this shift. (You don’t have to look at all three categories—the public, the political, and the scientific—but they do tend to merge in this era.) In other words, how did American wilderness preservation change from being the province of a James Fenimore Cooper or a Henry David Thoreau to that of a David Brower or a Jimmy Carter, to use two of Nash’s recent examples?

Remember our two key questions:
1. **How** do you know what you know?
2. **Why** do you feel what you feel?

DOUBLE-SPACED, TYPED ESSAYS ARE DUE, IN MY E-35 HLM MAILBOX, BY 5:00 P.M., Tuesday, December 9th.