

First Reflection Assignment

Chaos and Fractals

College of the Atlantic

Target Due Date: Monday, 31 January

Goal. The goal of this assignment is for you to spend time reflecting on and digesting some of the themes of this course. Explore some ideas from the class that have captured your imagination. Your piece should show evidence of sustained inquiry. Find something that interests you or perplexes you and explore. Push your ideas and (gently) push yourself. Ideally, your piece should be emotionally and intellectually satisfying to you. Choose a question, word, phrase, issue, image, equation, person, quotation, or idea from the readings or discussion and dig deeply.

Format. I suspect many of you will write a paper that is an essay or is generally essay-like. If so, your paper should be around two-three pages in length. However, there are many other options:

- You could write a short story, a lyric essay, a poem.
- You could create a drawing, a cartoon, a painting.
- You could collaborate with someone else in the class and record a dialog, or jointly create something.

If you choose a non-essay option, your piece should be roughly equivalent to a two-three page essay. (I honestly don't know what that means.)

What to Explore. There are many possibilities! We've talked quite a bit in this class about different notions of randomness and order. This week in discussion section we'll look at the nature of scientific change. Maybe there's a word or phrase or image that is interesting to you that could be a good jumping off point. If you're unsure of what to explore (or what formats to use for your exploration), let me know and we can brainstorm together.