

## **Drowning and Other Stories: a creative nonfiction portfolio**

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I spent my summer reading, writing, and thinking about the ways in which humans can ethically participate in nonhuman ecosystems. My project, originally titled Coastal Living, was grounded in my personal experience living on the Maine coast over the past three summers. Taking specific places and memories as a starting point, I created larger narratives with the coast as the central unifying theme. I wrote about fishing and shellfish harvesting in Maine, and how my participation in these systems has forced me to think critically about the environmental and moral consequences of eating meat. I learned about Maine's invasive species (specifically the European green crab, *Carcinus maenas*), and considered the ways in which environmental policy is used to preserve certain species and ecosystem types that are economically viable. I read about the impact of climate change on