

# Module 6a

## Abbey

### *Desert Solitaire*

#### Chapter 5

##### *Polemic:*

##### *Industrial Tourism and the National Parks.*”

**Instructions:** Write in margins of Abbey’s text, developing your own system of abbreviations to note useful quotes, location of facts, appeals to logos, ethos or pathos, evidence of arguments and counter arguments, solutions, sensory details, figurative language etc. Develop a concise labeling system for this marginalia of analysis. Do this for each course-reading, as a form of evidence collecting for your Midterm Paper/ Term Paper/ Final Exam.

**Midterm Themes: Focus of Critical Inquiry/Analysis.**

**If you choose to write on Abbey for your Midterm Paper, you may select from the following topics.**

1. Polemical Analysis/Question: Which is more important: recreational access to national parks/wilderness areas or the preservation/conservation of those areas?
2. Rhetorical Analysis/ Style: What are the defining elements of Abbey’s style (the literary merits of his writing).
3. Comparative Analysis/ Style: Conduct a comparative analysis of Abbey’s style with the style of another writer we have covered (Yeast, Lane Deer, Muir), documenting and assessing any similarities and differences.
4. Polemical Analysis: What is Abbey’s thesis and how does he develop it? What rhetorical (writing/narrative) strategies does he use? Are they effective? What, if any, are the limitations or drawbacks to his argument? Which of Aristotle’s three appeals (ethos, logos, pathos) is he using, and where does he use them. Any figurative devices? What are the strengths/weaknesses of the solutions he proposes? Who does he quote? Other criteria of analysis/assessment?
5. Polemical Comparative Analysis: Conduct a comparative analysis/ assessment of the argumentative strategies used by Abbey, Muir, and/or Lane Deer in “Industrial Tourism,” “Hetch Hetchy,” and “The Green Frog Skin.” Analyze two out of three or all three). In your analysis, include an assessment of any similarities or differences in their argumentative writing strategies, and which strategies you found most persuasive in each, and possibly most persuasive of all.

**Journal Free-Writing. Instructions: Choose One (or more, if related to your midterm topic)**

1. **Topic:** Which is more important: recreationists' access to national parks and wilderness areas or conservation of those areas?
2. **Topic:** Describe an experience in a national park, or outdoor area. Include subjective and objective details, the feelings aroused in you by the setting. Describe any moments of epiphany, encounters with wildlife, scenes of transcendent beauty, emergencies etc.
3. **Topic:** Describe an unpleasant experience in a national park or outdoor area related to the excesses of civilization (noise, litter, congestion, traffic etc). Describe any frustrating experiences with lines, crowds, machines or other ills of urban life?
4. **Topic:** Write a critique or defense of off-road recreationists (ATVS, snow mobiles, wave-runners etc) from a personal perspective.
5. **Topic:** respond to one of Abbey's solutions. Should autos be banned from Yosemite, or all national parks? Should snow mobiles be banned from Yellowstone national park? Should ATVs be banned from desert areas surrounding Las Vegas? Should wave-runners be banned from ocean and lakes? Should the building of new roads in National Parks be banned?

**Journal Free-Write/ Follow Up (Choose One)**

**Instructions:** Add on to any of these free-writes at home, as a means of developing more substance for a paper or exam response

6. Write from opposite point of view, by way of generating some counter-arguments to your position. Then write a one or two sentence rebuttal to each of these counter-arguments.
7. Write from the perspective of a tourist, an off-road recreationist, a rancher, a wildlife biologist, a hunter, a park ranger, a kid on a field trip, or some other role that you can adopt with your pen.
8. Re-read previous free-writes, picking up any tangents of further development you may have missed in the "heat of the moment," and further develop these tangents of argumentation.

**Worksheet: "Industrial Tourism"**

In your reading response journal make an entry in which you record responses to these questions (**Choose any ten**):

1. Find a quote, record it, and respond to it.
2. Define the word “polemic.”
3. What incident prompts Abbey’s critique of “Industrial Tourism?”
4. How does he make effective use of subjective and objective details? (record examples of each, with page numbers)?
5. How does he make effective use of figurative language (metaphor, alliteration) to persuade? (record examples with page numbers)?
6. How does he make effective use of sensory detail? (same)
7. How does he use satire and humor effectively to persuade? (record several examples, with page #s. )
8. How does he make effective use of facts to persuade (record examples);
9. What signs of “Progress” does he question?
10. What is ironic about his “escape” into the wilderness?
11. What does he mean by “Industrial Tourism?” Who does he include in this category?
12. What is the rationale for recreational access?
13. What is Abbey’s rationale for conservation?
14. How is tourism a threat to the National Park system?
15. What solutions does Abbey offer? What solutions do you favor?

**Reader-Response: (Choose One)**