

-- Early in *Walden*, Thoreau writes that his essential requirement of authors—and one that he'll hold himself to—is “a simple and sincere account of his own life.”

-- About ten pages into “Economy,” Thoreau starts to give that honest accounting of his own life, and the economic connotations continue: [H3.1]

“My accounts, which I can swear to have kept faithfully, ...”

“My purpose in going to Walden Pond was not to live cheaply nor to live dearly there, but to transact some private business with the fewest obstacles; to be hindered from accomplishing which for want of a little common sense, a little enterprise and business talent, appeared not so sad as foolish.”

-- Over the next 24 hours, please list every expense of money or time that you incur. And then please account as well for your reaction to this expenditure.

Expenditures

Reactions



Part Two: Reflection

Please describe in as much detail as possible what this accounting exercise was like and what you can take away from it.

Questions to consider:

- Why did you decide to focus on either money or time?
- What was your process for coming up with expenditures?
- What did you find challenging and what do you think is significant about those challenges?
- How would you categorize your reactions, in general?
- What was the most unexpected realization in this process?