Sample Assignment—Oh Canada?

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(for the purpose of this example, I am choosing to describe Trail, BC)

1. Where are we?
2. How can we describe this area?
3. How does the landscape affect us?
4. How are ideas exchanged?
5. How have we changed the land?

Trail BC

Trail, BC is located mere kilometers from the Canada, United States border in southern British Columbia. Close to equidistant from Calgary and Vancouver, It is also just over a three-hour drive to Kelowna. Located in the West Kootenay region of BC, Trail is surrounded by beautifully forested mountains and hills. Built alongside the Columbia River, Trail is also located within the region of the Columbia River Basin. Established in the midst of the river valley, Trail is surrounded by mountains. For those who love getting outdoors, there is always a lot to do of which hiking, biking and skiing are just a few examples. Inhabitants of Trail are able to experience the four seasons distinctly: hot summers, cool, colorful falls, (mostly) snowy winters and vibrant springs. However, while the landscape in the Trail area can be very positive for some, providing beauty and opportunity, the mighty Columbia River can be very dangerous; the river’s strong currents and undertows have at times proven fatal. Trail has changed greatly in the hands of its inhabitants over the years. The first Europeans to settle in Trail did not understand sustainability. As a result, resource extraction and development destroyed most of the vegetation in the region. For a period of years, Trail was a very undesirable place to live. Over the last century however, better practices have resulted in an improved living environment for plants, animals and people.