

## Reading Tips and Study Questions

### Session 10: Research Writing for a General Audience

#### Required reading (available at Rotch Library, not on Stellar):

1. **Anne Whiston Spirn**, *The Granite Garden: Urban Nature and Human Design* (1985), Table of Contents (pp.vii-ix), Prologue (pp.3-5), Part IV. Water (pp.129-168), Epilogue (pp.263-275), and skim Bibliography (pp.290-314).

#### Tips and questions

Our focus for this session is writing research for a general audience, including non-researchers as well as researchers in other disciplines or fields. Our guest will be **Anne Spirn**, a faculty member in architecture as well as planning here at MIT. Anne's background is at:

<http://architecture.mit.edu/people/profiles/prspirn.html>

... and our focal text is Anne's seminal book, *The Granite Garden*. The reading will not be available in excerpts on Stellar. Our objective this week is to experience the book as book readers do, i.e. as a whole. The writing is accessible, and you won't be quizzed on the details. **Several copies of the book are available on reserve at Rotch Library in Building 7, room 238.**

Rare for a "research" book, *The Granite Garden* was written for a general audience and reviewed in major media, such as the *New York Times Book Review*. Both factors helped it reach a large and broad audience of non-academics, as well as academics across many disciplines who still assign it, more than two decades after publication, as required reading in courses ranging from history and environmental studies to geography, architecture, planning, landscape ecology, and environmental engineering.

There are no study questions this week. Experience the book, and bring questions for Anne, who will be with us to share the experience of writing the book and developing her career in its "wake."