

The Why Athens County? Essay Contest asked Athens Countians to answer the following questions in 300 words or less

"Right Here, Right Now,"

Honorable Mentions essay by

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2007 Athens County Visitor's Bureau



Your dog gently licks you awake, ready to start the day. While drinking coffee you see two deer outside in the woods, grazing peacefully at some grass. Their soft brown eyes enchant you as they watch you for a moment, and then return gracefully back to the ground. A burst of red shoots across the window – a cardinal.

As you take your dog for a walk around the city, you watch the sun come up behind the hills. A school bus passes by, ready to pick up kids to go to school. Your fellow hikers greet you happily, and you all have a chat about last week's International Street Fair. The talk of the music and food draws you the aroma of one of many restaurants residing on Court Street. Even though the event is far into the future, you and your friends begin planning for the Halloween Block Party. You haven't been to one yet, but from what you've heard from your party – loving friends it sounds appealing.

Heading home, you stop and gaze out at the Hocking River, and throw some left over bread to the geese. The sun is fully out now – the air is crisp, cool, and clean. During the afternoon, you try out a natural park. The park guides are friendly, and the park itself is beautiful; while trail riding you pass by countless flora and fauna. Later on, you receive a call from your friends inviting you to hang out at the new Baker Center, and then watch a play at the Memorial Auditorium.

You've seen the best of wildlife, tasted the best of food, experienced the best of people, been to the best of places... and the day has just begun. Right here, right now. Welcome to Athens County.

