"Five Ways of Looking at Walden" was written as a lecture for 1962 annual conference of the New York State English Council in New York City on May 4, 1962, but was actually first delivered at a convocation at Keuka College on March 26, 1962. It has been repeated on many college campuses across the country. It first appeared in print in the special Thoreau centennial issue of the Massachusetts Review in October, (Autumn, 1962), 149-152. This version of the text has been slightly revised to bring it up-to-date and to modify a few of my earlier opinions.