

ASSIGNMENT

FOR THIS PROJECT YOU WILL INVESTIGATE THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT. YOU WILL BE ASSESSED ON HOW WELL YOU CAN EXPRESS THE EXPERIENCE OF YOUR PLACE IN SPEECH AND WRITING, AND HOW ASTUTE YOU CAN TRANSLATE YOUR EXPERIENCE INTO CRITICAL EVALUATION OF YOUR PLACE. YOU WILL WORK INDIVIDUALLY, - OR IF YOU'D PREFER, IN TEAMS OF UP TO 4 - AND PREPARE A SLIDE PRESENTATION OF YOUR ASSIGNED PLACE, AS WELL AS WRITE A SHORT PAPER.

STEP 1: LOCATE

DEFINE THE BOUNDARIES OF YOUR LOCATION. FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU ARE DOING ROCKEFELLER CENTER, WHERE IS IT? AT WHAT POINT, IN EVERY DIRECTION, ARE YOU NO LONGER IN IT, THAT IS, WHEN ARE YOU IN ROCKEFELLER CENTER, AND WHEN ARE YOU NOT? WHEN YOU HAVE DETERMINED THE BOUNDARIES OF YOUR LOCATION, CONFIRM WITH YOUR PROFESSOR.

STEP 2: RESEARCH

YOU SHOULD ALWAYS BEGIN A PROJECT KNOWING AS MUCH AS YOU CAN ABOUT YOUR SITE. PROVIDE ENOUGH BACKGROUND AND HISTORY TO INFORM YOUR AUDIENCE ABOUT YOUR LOCATION. WHEN WAS IT BUILT? WHO BUILT IT? WHO WAS THE ARCHITECT? IF IT WASN'T BUILT AT ONE TIME, BUT EVOLVED, HOW DID IT EVOLVE? THIS BACKGROUND AND HISTORY SHOULD BE VERY GENERAL; YOU WILL BE DOING MORE IN-DEPTH RESEARCH AND WRITING WITH YOUR ENGLISH PROFESSORS.

STEP 3: OBSERVE AND DOCUMENT

THE ORIGINAL ASSIGNMENT CALLED FOR YOU TO GO TO YOUR LOCATION AND PHOTOGRAPH THINGS THAT RELATE TO THE TOPICS BELOW. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT PANDEMIC, YOU CAN USE IMAGES FROM THE INTERNET, GOOGLE MAPS, ETC IN ORDER TO DOCUMENT THE CONDITIONS OF YOUR SITE.

STEP 4: PRESENT

YOU (OR YOUR TEAM) WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRESENT ALL THE TOPICS BELOW. IF YOU ARE WORKING IN GROUPS, EACH OF YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRESENT AS PART OF YOUR TEAM, WITH EACH OF YOU PRESENTING AT LEAST ONE TOPIC. DECIDE AMONG YOURSELVES WHO IS COVERING WHICH TOPIC AND LET YOUR PROFESSOR KNOW. YOU WILL PRESENT THE TOPIC YOU ARE ASSIGNED AND BE EVALUATED ON HOW WELL YOU COVER IT.

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DELIVERABLES (PART 1) - DUE SATURDAY, DEC. 4TH

PRESENTATION:

YOU (OR YOUR GROUP) WILL PRESENT YOUR SITE TO THE CLASS, BEING SURE TO COVER EACH TOPIC BELOW. YOU SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST 3-4 SLIDES FOR EACH TOPIC, AND PRESENTATIONS SHOULD LAST APPROXIMATELY 10 MINUTES FOR INDIVIDUALS, AND 15-20 MINUTES FOR GROUPS, WITH A SHORT Q&A PERIOD AFTER THE PRESENTATION.

TOPICS

INTRODUCTION: PROVIDE SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL CONTEXT. 3-4 SLIDES MINIMUM SHOWING THE LOCATION OF YOUR PLACE AND PROVIDING SOME HISTORY AND BACKGROUND TO ORIENT YOUR AUDIENCE. SHOULD INCLUDE A SITE PLAN SHOWING ALL THE BUILDINGS, SPACES, STREETS, ETC.

TOPIC 1: THE BUILDINGS

- WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?
- WHAT ARE THEY MADE OF?
- DO THEY WORK TOGETHER? (SCALE, MATERIAL, COLOR, ETC)

TOPIC 2: DESCRIBE HOW THE BUILDING MASSES RELATE TO THE PUBLIC SPACES

- WHAT IS DOMINANT, THE BUILDING(S) OR THE SPACE?
- IS THERE A HIERARCHY AMONG THE BUILDINGS?
- IS THERE A CENTER OF THE COMPLEX?
- HOW DO THE DOORS RELATE TO THE PUBLIC SPACES?

TOPIC 3: DESCRIBE HOW THE PUBLIC SPACES ARE TREATED

- ARE THEY LANDSCAPED?
- ARE THERE PLACES FOR PEOPLE TO MEET AND SIT?
- WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE ARE THERE: STUDENTS, BUSINESS PEOPLE?
- WHAT ARE THE PEOPLE AROUND THERE DOING?
- ARE THE GROUND FLOORS OF THE BUILDINGS WELCOMING: CAN YOU SEE INSIDE?

TOPIC 4: HOW IS THE INFRASTRUCTURE TREATED?

- WHERE DO THE CARS GO?
- ARE THE PEDESTRIANS SEPARATED FROM THE CARS?
- WHERE DO THE SERVICE TRUCKS GO?
- WHERE DO THE CARS PARK?

ASSIGNMENT

DELIVERABLES (PART 2) - DUE SATURDAY, DEC. 11TH

AN EVALUATION OF YOUR PLACE: EACH OF YOU SEPARATELY WILL WRITE A 250 WORD ESSAY THAT CRITICALLY EVALUATES YOUR PLACE.

WHAT WORKS AND WHAT DOESN'T? IS THE PLACE A NICE PLACE TO BE? IF IT IS, WHY? IF IT IS NOT, WHY NOT? WHAT IS THE BEST THING ABOUT IT? THE WORST?

BE SPECIFIC. IF YOU LIKE SOMETHING, GIVE US A REASON; IF IT'S NICE, TELL US WHY. CITE THE THINGS YOU OBSERVE AS EVIDENCE. FOR EXAMPLE:

“THE STREET FELT VERY WELCOMING TO PEDESTRIANS, BECAUSE THE BUILDINGS ON EITHER SIDE WERE A NICE SCALE AT THREE STORIES, AND PROPORTIONALLY RELATED TO EACH OTHER.”

“THE CAR TRAFFIC WAS SLOW ENOUGH TO ALLOW PEDESTRIANS TO CROSS FROM ONE SIDE TO OTHER COMFORTABLY.”

“THE SERVICES FOR THE BUILDINGS WERE LOCATED ON THE SIDE STREETS AWAY FROM THE PUBLIC PLAZA.”

SUGGESTED LOCATIONS:

NYC:

- LINCOLN CENTER
- HUDSON YARDS
- WORLD TRADE CENTER
- ROCKEFELLER CENTER
- COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
- TIMES SQUARE
- STUYVESANT TOWN—PETER COOPER VILLAGE
- METROTECH (BROOKLYN)

OUTSIDE OF NYC:

- BACK BAY (BOSTON)
- THE YARDS (WASHINGTON DC)
- SEASIDE (FLORIDA)
- INNER HARBOR (BALTIMORE)

OR... PICK YOUR OWN PLACE TO RESEARCH - I'M OPEN TO IDEAS!