

Learning Places Fall 2019

# SITE REPORT #1

## name of site report

NAMING PROTOCOL. When saving and posting your site reports on OpenLab, please follow the following format: SiteReport#.LastnameFirstname



Select a meaningful image that captures your perception of the site we visited.

**STUDENT NAME: ARIANDY GOMEZ**

**PART 1: SITE OBSERVATIONS**

1. What are some general observations about the character of this neighborhood? What does it remind you of? How does it make you feel? My general observation was that the area of Gowanus is a place of much history, it is like a different urban environment. The area reminds me of a wild beast that has gone thru many aspects of history within the city of New York. Makes me feel like Gowanus is a location that is lost in time and feels so exciting to discover and explore its past.
2. How is the natural world contained or shaped by human activity or architecture? In what ways does the natural world invade or disrupt human activity, planning or architecture? Humans and architecture is used in the area of Gowanus to create a sense of space and ownership. Architecture is used to create a separation of class. Old ugly buildings are also turned into new spaces to be sold as new architectural spaces.
3. What people did you observe in the neighborhood and what activities are they engaged in? The people in the neighborhood are just going about their business. Their were these elderly people who were from World War 2 era. I didn't really see many people.
4. Reflect on a **specific** place you viewed in this neighborhood. A specific place means a single building, or an intersection, or an individual built structure, etc.
  - a. Insert 1 photograph and/or sketch and provide a *creative* caption for the image. The caption should be a word or short phrase that suggests a theme or conceptual association related to the photo or sketch.



A decaying development

- b. What is the *program* of the space? How are people meant to interact with one another and with the environment? Well it particular building seem like a store or a storage place but I don't think someone should occupy this it's abandoned. This facade is under extreme disrepair and is in need of work just like the Gowanus. The wall won't naturally patch itself up and is in need or being fixed.

- c. describe a possible creative reuse of this **specific** space for a performance:
- a) Which areas are best for performers/activists and which areas are good for observers? Do these spaces overlap? Mention specific objects and structures in your answer. The space can be used for creating a 3d graffiti design in a similar vein to the great Banksy who creates a message without actually being in the performance. An artwork that would interact with the hole in the building. This wall is also a good message for the luxury apartment on the other side of the street.
  
  - b) What kinds of performance would work best (intimate or grand; processional or stationary; text and/or music; interactive or passive audience; etc.)? The best type of performance would be a stationary, grand artwork work that make the passive audience and the neighboring building start to think about the development of Gowanus.

**QUESTIONS for FURTHER RESEARCH.** These should follow directly from your analysis section and be complex and specific enough to serve as the basis of a research project.

Questions might relate to architectural or environmental observations, socio-political problems and/or solutions, demography, history, zoning, civic processes, performance strategy, etc.

1. Question? Why is the zoning in Gowanus Changing, and how fit is Gowanus for the change?

2. Question? How could a upzone of a superfund site affect the future of Gowanus?
  
3. Question? How does the city of New York determine what gets rezoned and what does it mean for Gowanus?

## PART 2: RESEARCH

Choose and revise one of your research questions for further research.

**Revised Research Question: How does the city of New York determine the rezoned future of a superfund site like the Gowanus neighborhood in Brooklyn?**

Find and cite 2 sources that address your question in MLA format. Respond to the questions below.

**CITATION 1:**“About Zoning.” *About-Zoning.page*, City of New York, [www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/zoning/about-zoning.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/zoning/about-zoning.page).

Why did you select this source? How does it address all or part of your research question? I selected this source because in order to write about the process of rezoning I need information on how reasoning works. The City of New York has a mountain of information for anyone who wants to understand architecture in the City of New York. This addresses only half of the question.

Is the source credible? Why or why not? It is the City of New York and the building code is on here, it has never failed me before.

What further information would you need to answer your question? Where would you look for additional sources? A further insight of the community board who approved Gowanus needing upzoning and architectural presentation of the future of the site.

**CITATION 2:**DiStefano, Thomas D. "Superfund." *Pollution A to Z*, edited by Richard M. Stapleton, vol. 2, Macmillan Reference USA, 2004, pp. 225-227. *Gale Ebooks*, [https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3408100237/GVRL?u=cuny\\_nytc&sid=GVRL&xid=53a59711](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3408100237/GVRL?u=cuny_nytc&sid=GVRL&xid=53a59711). Accessed 23 Sept. 2019.

Why did you select this source? How does it address all or part of your research question? I chose this source because it would explain in detail what a superfund site is and how it affects an area. This source is a book and would have more concrete information that is not found on the internet. It would address part 2 of my question.

Is the source credible? Why or why not? Written to be published is much more credible than posting on the internet. Plus this source was mentioned in class.

What further information would you need to answer your question? Where would you look for additional sources? Examples of how a sustainable architecture could solve the problem. A case study to do research on.

### **PART 3: Performance Reflection (after second site visit)**

Write a 200 word reflection about how you felt during the second visit to the space and during the performance activities. How did this visit change your perception of the place and your relationship to the natural and built environments? Did the experience of 'performing' in the space (i.e., moving your body) teach you anything new about the landscape or architecture?

During my second visit, I was feeling anxious because I was told that something weird was going to happen and to come with an open mind. This anxious feeling soon left when I found that everyone was just as anxious as me so no loss no gain. That would be the case but I did gain the knowledge that we only use our see to a location but that is only one of the senses we need to use all of our senses to fully explore and experience the environment around us. I didn't really get the performing part but my best guess would be that the world is a place of movements, experiences, and life so in a way humanity is constantly blocked from the natural world. We are in our own little bubble and we should start becoming more in tune with nature. What would a performance worth participate in? The visit would teach me the ideology that my architecture design is the only extension of myself and if I'm to create a beautiful and function building it must first come from what my 5 senses feel before all the technical information. Is my design intuned with nature? Before thinking of the building I should think about the ones who can't speak for themselves. How can I make a building performance that won't harm the environment?

