

Learning Places Summer 2019

SITE REPORT #1

GOWANUS

NAMING PROTOCOL. When saving and posting your site reports on OpenLab, please follow the following format: SiteReport#.LastnameFirstname. Here's an example: SiteReport2.SwiftChristopher.



Sewage Pipes leading to Gowanus

STUDENT NAME: Eric Abreu

SITE OBSERVATIONS

Insert 3 photographs and provide a *creative* title for each image. The title should be a word or short phrase that suggests a theme or conceptual association related to the photo.



Carroll Street House



Unused Bridge



Once Horse Stable now Restaurant

1. The neighborhood reminded me of my home town in th edominican republic due to the fact that as we got closer to the gowanus the area got worse and more beat down. My country follows the same path for some parts. As we get closer to the non tourists waters the poorer it gets and the more trash and undertaken care of it is. I noticed many buildings which were once horse stables, or factories being turned into nice house complexes with very fancy houses, grass and living spaces. At first I felt very peaceful and felt kind of safe, but closer to the water made me disgusted and unsafe.

2. An example would be Gowanus itself. It was once a creek and was turned into a canal. This canal was shaped because of the easy access to brooklyn. People saw the potential for trade/industrial ships and made it into what it is today. Also the sewage being made to enter the creek is a man made architecture that shaped the natural world around it. . Another example would be the peanut tree we saw during the tour. This tree is actually not native to brooklyn and is actually invading the land.

3. At first entering Gowanus I was seeing people sitting in their front porch taking in some sun and talking. As we headed closer to Gowanus i saw some bikers and some dogs walking the bridge. Once we made a left turn back around we started to notice more workers. Some from candle shops other from pottery shops and even an ice cream shop as well.

4. Reflect on a **specific** space you viewed in this neighborhood:
 - a. Gowanus canal was designed for shipping ports and the people in the industry. Its general purpose was for ships to come in and out of the area but then was transformed into a place where sewage was lead into. Around the corner from the bridge you can see many industrial sites like a candle making factory, a once horse stable and a pottery factory.

 - b. The implied rules would be no swimming or getting into the water. People can interact with each other through casual walks or even at local shops around the area. There were pottery classes , restaurants and local houses in which people can communicate. Even we stopped and communicated with some locals who told us a little about the history of carroll st.

- c. describe a possible creative reuse of this **specific** space for a theatrical event:
- a) I think the best area for both actors and observers would be either the carroll st housing area or the bridge crossing the gowanus creek. Carroll st would be a good place for observers due to the fact that they have spacious front yards in which the locals can sit and watch the theatrical event. The bridge is also ideal because its a one way and to get to the other side you will need to cross it. So that being said everybody passing will have to get a glimpse of whats happening. As for the actors they will need to be acting on the side of the bridge as people, cars , and bikers pass by. As well as workers who work there.
 - b) Potential Audiences would be locals, workers who work in the factories and just anybody passing by the area. The event can be hardly missed if done on the bridge due to it being a bridge needed to get from one side to the other side of the creek. It can be workers going to work or coming from work, tourist exploring the brooklyn area, joggers, walkers and cyclists passing by.
 - c) I do not think there would be any lights or sounds in this theatrical event. Due to the area being very quiet and it being sunny out.
 - d) The performance that would best be used would be a stationary interactive one. We can station ourselves on a side of the bridge and interact with passing people.

QUESTIONS for FURTHER RESEARCH. Write down questions that require further research to answer. These should follow directly from your analysis section and be complex and specific enough to serve as the basis of a research project; do not include questions you can answer with a quick google search.

1. What will it take to get the Gowanus creek clean again?
2. Why has past clean ups of Gowanus have failed? What could have been changed to make it successful?
3. What new Changes can be made to clean up Gowanus?

4. What health problems evolve from living near Gowanus?

FURTHER RESEARCH

Revised Research Question: What environmental technological inventions can be made to clean up Gowanus?

Find a book or newspaper article that could help you answer your question.

MLA Citation for source:

Works Cited

“MEP Rewards Technical Inventions on Environmental Protection.” *China Chemical Reporter*, vol. 20, no. 1, Jan. 2009, p. 11. *EBSCOhost*, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=35967227&site=ehost-live&scope=site.

Works Cited

Gorman, Michael E., and Matthew M. Mehalik. “Turning Good into Gold: A Comparative Study of Two Environmental Invention Networks.” *Science, Technology & Human Values*, vol. 27, no. 4, Sept. 2002, p. 499. *EBSCOhost*, doi:10.1177/016224302236179.

I selected this source because it talked about technical inventions on environmental protection. This did not address all parts of my research question due to the fact that it didn't talk about Gowanus. By using the research given i can see how other places have been cleaned up or improved by technical inventions and apply it to Gowanus.

To find this source i had to refine my research question and choose specific words from the refined question to look up exactly what i needed. I used the words environmental Technical inventions in Academic search complete to find my sources.

I think with the sources i found i can answer my question or at least part of my question.