

Learning Places Summer 2019

# SITE REPORT #3

## Recycling And How It Affects Our Environment

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



Pier 1 at the Brooklyn Bridge Park, used by travelers daily to commute between places.

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## SITE OBSERVATIONS

Insert 3 **photographs or drawings** 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.



Gates, inviting commuters in.  
space



Left entrance pathway.



Front view performance

### General instructions:

- a. Be sure to draw meaningful connections between what you observed and the purpose of the performative intervention. In other words, how does the performative intervention respond to, or integrate directly with, the specific material conditions of the site?
- b. Pay attention to the criteria for the sources you select. One source can be an internet source but others MUST be a newspaper source, archival source, academic source.
- c. Your sources should be Relevant and Credible.

1. Describe the area where your performance will take place. What architectural structures are present? Describe the different shapes/forms and dimensions.

In our area, you're able to see both the Manhattan and the Brooklyn Bridge. The site is also surrounded by water that is used to navigate to and from different locations. Because of the way the lands are separated, one of the best ways to commute happens to be by ferry. The ferry is much faster and more convenient depending on the place you are commuting to. The site is a real hot spot for tourists as well. When walking around observing, you would see people looking around and taking photos. As soon as you walk into the pier, you can see the ticket machine on the left, where tickets can be bought for the ferry. There are gates along the right side that separates people from the water below. Walking further into the pier if you turn and face the left side, you will see a small park area where people can go in and play. The park is circular and is filled with grass and a couple of trees towards the back. There are two concrete pathways that are wrapped around the park on both the left and right sides. These pathways

lead out of the pier. Looking beyond the park you will be greeted with the 1Hotel. The 1 Hotel is a modern looking building that is mostly black and has glass windows all around it. Turning back to the right side, deeper into the pier there is the entrance to the ferry. The entrance is a walkway that leads from the pier to the ferry that seems to be floating on water because whenever you walk on it, its hard to keep your balance due to the swaying. Back on the pier if you keep going deeper, you would eventually get to the end where you can see the East River, which is a big body of water that leads to the Manhattan.

2. Who are the people you observe in this space? What are some patterns of movement of people (are they passing through, stopping, moving in a single direction, moving in multiple directions)?

There are mostly tourists in the area as well as families, joggers, and dog owners in the area due to the park, bridges, city views, and the ferry. There is a lot of open space around the area because the right and front of the pier don't have buildings crowding around and blocking the sunlight. When they enter the pier, they can stop to get tickets at the machine on the left. Next to the machine, there is a shop where people can stop to buy snacks and drinks. The pier is mainly one big concrete platform that is long and narrow. At the right of the pier is the water where boats and ferries come to drop off and pick up passengers. The left side of the pier has a park, trees, pathways, and buildings. People who are taking the ferry are usually walking towards the back of the pier where the ferry docks. Some people will take the curvy paths on the left that surrounds the park, and sit on benches under the trees to escape the heat from the sun. Occasionally there are some people would walk into the small park area on the left and sit in the grass. Unlike the subway, there is a calm flow to the area. No one is really rushing, just people moving along taking their time and enjoying the view and the open space. At the back of the pier, people gather around to get a good look at the water in the East River. Looking across this huge body of water, you will see Manhattan and its tall buildings.

3. How do the man-made / architectural structures inform how people use and move through the space?

There are paths that tell people "walk through here" as well as a barricade that tells people "do not go in". Since the ferry is also at the location there are fences that tell people, "make the line here". Towards the back on the left-hand side, there are tall plants that are heavily barricaded. This tells people that these bushes are off limits. There are also two paths on the left that surrounds a small grass area. When looking at these paths you will see a tall hotel building where people can spend the night. Most of the people at this site will be going there to take the ferry. Since the space is open, people can clearly see when the ferry is coming and they can form a line to get on. The walk to the ferry is pretty much a clear unobstructed path. On the immediate left of the pier, the park area is surrounded by trees and is

elevated. It's elevated to the point that you can't see what's behind it while standing on the pier. The platforms that lead to the ferry is sort of shaky, so there are handrails that you can hold on to while crossing.

4. How will your performance respond to the people and patterns of movement that are already happening in that space?

Our performance will take place near the grass area. People can walk straight towards the ferry and they will see us on the left side. Our site is also next to some garbage cans so this is appropriate for the performance we will have there. As people are walking by, we can hand out zines to them.

5. How can you take advantage of the built spaces to create a staging area for your performance? Is your performance stationary or does it move throughout the space? It is interactive?

This space is great for the kind of message we are trying to deliver. We want to encourage people to reuse and recycle a lot more. We rely on our environment for many things such as resources, travel, and entertainment. When we recycle and take care of our environment, natural beauty can be preserved and the environment, in turn, takes care of us. The east river, for example, is a body of water that we use every day for traveling. Keeping the water clean and contaminant free goes a long way to help the environment and ourselves. By recycling, we reduce the number of materials that end up going to waste and contaminating the waters. There are many places where the waters aren't clean enough to swim or fish in, and the only way to fix that is by being mindful about how we recycle going forward.

## RESEARCH

**Central Research Question related to your performance topic** (as you understand it based on conversations with your group and the research you've conducted--this doesn't have to be uniform across group members and your questions can inform each other's perspectives):

Find, cite, and write a critical summary for 2 sources (**1 internet source / 1 newspaper, archival, or academic source**) related to your question.

Sources might be about the central issue your performance is responding to, the place where your performance takes place, tactics or strategies from similar performances, or the community that you hope to engage with your performance. Whatever the sources you choose, you should describe what the main point of the source is and **HOW IT RELATES TO YOUR CENTRAL RESEARCH QUESTION**.

### How much does it cost to recycle in NYC?

MLA Citation for source 1: Joe Truini. "Study highlights high cost of NYC recycling program". *Waste News*, February 16, 2004, Monday.

<https://advance-lexis-com.citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contenttem:4BRB-CPJ0-00S0-J1K9-00000-00&context=1516831>. Accessed June 29, 2019.

The main idea of this article is about the cost of recycling and how cost effective it is as time goes by. The article claims that recycling is more expensive than disposal and likely will continue to be so. A spokesman for Mayor Bloomberg at the time said that they were trying to create ways to make recycling as cost effective as possible but the idea that recycling saves money is a myth. At the time the estimated cost per ton of managing the city's trash was \$257 in 2002 compared to \$291 to recycle. Since sanitation trucks pick up more trash than recyclables, it's much more expensive and time consuming to sort through the trash to find recyclable objects. In 2002 the Sanitation department collected 3.1 million tons of trash and 796,511 tons of recyclables. This is related to our performance because we were focused on recycling by reusing and creating art. Also by people becoming more involved with recycling, we can cut

down the cost it takes the city to recycle.

MLA Citation for source 2:

Lipton, Eric. "Report Calls Recycling Costlier Than Dumping." The New York Times, The New York Times, 2 Feb. 2004,  
[www.nytimes.com/2004/02/02/nyregion/report-calls-recycling-costlier-than-dumping.html?searchResultPosition=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2004/02/02/nyregion/report-calls-recycling-costlier-than-dumping.html?searchResultPosition=1).

What is the main point of the source? How does it relate to your project?

The main point of the source is to provide us details on how recycling cost more than just normal dumping of garbage. When residents recycle only 20% of their waste the cost is from \$34- \$48 dollars a ton more to recycle. This article relates to our project because our project was to get people to recycle more. By giving them a performance on recycling as well as introducing artistic ways to reuse plastic that would normally be thrown out.