

Analysis of a Place

Purpose:

- ✓ assess information exposed by field research.
- ✓ use rhetorical terms in writing.
- ✓ analyze spaces as rhetorical texts.

General Instructions:

Find an accessible place, either around campus or near your home, that you are interested in knowing more about. Examples might include memorials, museums, gardens, a community center, or a place of worship. You might also consider using a certain restaurant or store. Then, see what you can find out about it on the internet, whether through an organizational website or newspaper article. Don't choose a place unless this search yields helpful information. **In your free time**, visit in the place (you may have to do this more than once), and write down as many notes as you can and talk to someone who can give you information about it. These will be your field notes.

Using your web search and your field notes, write an essay that includes the following:

- ✓ An in-depth physical description of the place.
- ✓ A brief history and description of the place's purpose.
- ✓ A description of the kinds of people (community) who utilize the space.

Then, answer one or more of the following questions:

- ✓ Who might be most comfortable or uncomfortable there?
- ✓ What about the architecture/use of space contributes to the way that it makes you feel when you're there?
- ✓ How might the space be more inviting or useful?
- ✓ What kind of language do you associate with this place? Is it different than the language you use at home or with your friends?

Conclude your essay by summarizing what you think is the overall message or narrative attached to this place by reiterating some of the details from what you've already written. In other words, what does this place mean for the people who use it?

Requirements:

3-5 pages, MLA format, minimum of one source.

Rubric for Grading:

Thesis/Organization: 25%

Use of Evidence and Details: 25%

Shows Analysis/Critical Thinking: 25%

Format/Grammar/Punctuation: 25%

5	4	3	2	1
Masterful/Original	Good	Average	There but flawed	Missing/Unacceptable

FIELD NOTES ASSIGNMENT

DUE: October 2nd by 5pm via the iCollege Dropbox

First, take the printed version to your place and jot down notes. Then, when you're preparing to hand in the assignment, download this template and use it to type out your answers. You want to put down as much information as you can, so that you'll have the material you need to write your analysis paper (3-5 pages).

In making observations for your place analysis, answer the following questions:

1. Where and what is this place? (What is its purpose?)
2. Who is in this place, or uses it?
3. Describe it:
 - a. Using all five senses, and being as specific as possible, describe the place:
 - b. How is this place designed or decorated?
4. What creates the atmosphere in this place?
5. What kind of culture does this place attempt to represent?