

GSCI 2015: Environmental Studies  
Community Research Project 2  
Mental Mapping: Investigating the Meaning of Places

**Our Class Research Questions:**

- ⦿ Why do young people choose to not go to particular places?
- ⦿ How do abandoned spaces in neighborhoods attract crime or other violent behaviors?
- ⦿ How are neighborhoods segregated based on race/ethnicity/sexuality/class?
- ⦿ What attracts violence to particular neighborhoods?
- ⦿ What kinds of neighborhood noise do we experience? Is there positive noise? Negative noise?
- ⦿ How are neighborhoods changing? Who benefits from these changes? How do we see and experience these changes?

**Mental Mapping Data Collection & Analysis:**

We will use this format to organize our mental mapping discussions. **BE SURE TO RECORD YOUR DISCUSSIONS.**

For each map use the following questions as suggested prompts to learn more about the places in the neighborhoods and/or communities that have meaning to the mapmaker:

1. What neighborhood(s)/community did you design for your map? Why did you choose this particular neighborhood(s)/community?
2. What did you include in your map? Why did you include these places? Why did you represent them on the map the way you did? Are these places positive or negative places?
3. What do you do in these places? What do these places sound like? What do these places smell like? What do these places look like?
4. What emotions do these places generate?
5. What (if any) practical concerns, conditions, and/or constraints do you experience or confront in your everyday life in this neighborhood/community?

Based on the maps and discussion, document the big ideas, evidence, and connections to larger environmental issues. **Big Ideas** are words or phrases that seem to come up over and over again. **Evidence** is why you believe this is a big idea based on the content of the map and the discussion. This may include an image from the map or a quote from the mapmaker when speaking about a particular place. Explain how these big ideas **connect to larger environmental issues** and critical social justice theory from the readings and films we have seen in class. Continue to ask why these big ideas are emerging.

Mapmaker (use alias here) \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Big Ideas</b>	<b>Evidence</b>	<b>Connections to larger environmental issues</b>

Mapmaker (use alias here) \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Big Ideas</b>	<b>Evidence</b>	<b>Connections to larger environmental issues</b>