

Assignment

Because we so often move around with music in our ears, our eyes glued to screens, we are perhaps less attentive to our environment than people used to be, when there were no personal electronic devices. Now, rather than being open to the sights and sounds that surround us, we block off the outside world, moving around as if in a cocoon. The essays below remind us of what can be gained when we pay closer attention to our environment, noticing its features, making connections within and without, drawing insights, and then trying to map it in words and pictures.

- Rebecca Solnit's *Infinite City: A San Francisco Atlas* at <http://www.7x7.com/arts/rebecca-solnits-infinite-city-maps-sf-whole-new-light> ;
- Miranda Purves and Jason Logan, "The Last Bus Home," at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/29/opinion/29purves.html>
- Matt Flegenheimer, "A Ship of Love Passing in the Night," at <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/29/nyregion/ferried-between-islands-toward-love-and-its-promise.html?hp&r=0>
- Amanda Lavelle, "One Sixteen," at <http://blogs.umass.edu/english350-dfleming/2012/10/12/one-sixteen/>
- Kerry McDonough's "Clark's Circles of Influence," at <http://blogs.umass.edu/english350-dfleming/2012/10/15/clarks-circles-of-influence/>
- David Fleming, "Searching for *Ulmus americana*," <http://cityofrhetoric.wordpress.com/2013/06/26/searching-for-ulmus-americana/>
- David Fleming, "Audubon Road," <http://cityofrhetoric.wordpress.com/2013/07/17/audubon-road/>

For your second paper, I'd like you to "draw" a visual-verbal *map* of a place in your world. You can choose a single place, bounded enough that you can take it in from a single point of view; or you can choose some wider terrain that you and/or others travel through. Your "map" should contain both words and pictures (photographs, drawings, maps), with the words helping us "read" the pictures, and the pictures helping us "read" the words.

Your final paper should be around 750-1,500 words (about 3-6 pages typed, not including the visuals, with double line spacing, 12-point font, and one-inch margins) and will need to be revised substantially through at least two drafts.

The key due dates for this assignment are

- M 9/30: initial draft of essay due (bring 2 copies to class);
- W 10/02: revised draft of essay due (bring 1 copy to class);
- M 10/07: final, copyedited version of essay due, along with a reflective cover letter that you'll write in class.

See the syllabus for policies regarding attendance and due dates.