

Date: October 2, 2006
To: 4190 Students
From: Dr. Jackson
Re: Major Assignment #1

Completing Major Assignment #1: Comprehensive Editing

Statement of Transmittal

Attached is an excerpt from a city planner's report that explains a development **plan** for a city.

Explanation of Editing and Request for Revision

To complete this assignment, do the following:

1. **Copymark** the excerpt, using a colored pencil.
2. Do not reorganize the paragraphs, change the style, or do any rewording unless you must correct faulty parallelism or remedy a dangling modifier. I will deduct points if you make changes that alter the meaning of the excerpt.
3. Prepare an extensive style sheet for the excerpt, including choices that would influence your editorial decisions should you edit the additional 20 pages of the report.
4. Write a letter of transmittal to me explaining the major problems in the excerpt, including specific examples of these errors, **as** well as an explanation of why they are errors. This is worth 40% of the grade for this assignment.
5. Staple the entire assignment with one staple in the upper left-hand corner and arrange it in this order:
 - Letter of transmittal
 - Style sheet
 - Copymarked draft

You may want to photocopy the excerpt before you begin copymarking in case you make a mess. Remember that good editors do several different edits of the same document before returning it to their writing staff.

Request for Response

The assignment is due at the beginning of class on Wednesday, October 18, 2006. We will grade this assignment together in class.

Urban Design

Urban Design means many things to different people, consequently the term is often misunderstood, and greatly misused. Urban design may lose some of its ambivalence if considered as a process to accommodate a changing environment. This process which emphasizes design possibilities rather than design finalities develops from consideration of long range needs ~~and goals and the city's character. The ends (the built environment) develop from the means, the~~ city's decision making process. The city regulates and approves development, suggests development scenarios, and various guidelines. By going through this process the character of the city is identified.

This report addresses many urban design issues affecting Grand City: these issues include the neighborhood, the region and the state. Neighborhood concerns have been identified by a sub-committee of the Chamber of commerce, and cover financial, aesthetic, and social categories. Regional [defined as the 3 counties adjacent to Grand City] issues are basically fiscal; whereas the state concerns are inarguably political. At least ten committees (i.e. the Regional Airport Committee) provided assistance for this study. The report also lays out all the possible criteria ~~relevant to these issues and reaches a~~ conclusion based on an examination of the issues.

The Urban Design process does not need to be carried out at the expense of any special interest group, economic sector or governmental agency, instead it must be a co-operative effort, that involves all sectors of the city. Keeping all this in mind, the recommendations and strategies have been prepared in the spirit of promoting greater understanding of everyone's roles in making

Grand City a better place to live and in effect, to insure that **future** decisions about the city meet both resident and city officials expectations.

Development Criteria

A major component of an on-going program to enhance the city's form and character is the creation of development criteria which can be used to assist residents and city officials in critiquing development proposals. The construction industry, especially in the US., can also use the criteria to ensure that their activities, that alter the form and character of a city, will compliment it. All proposed developments must be compatible with the community and neighborhood which they are a part of. There can be no "handbook for urban design, rather the criterion must be tailored for each discrete area of the city. Future community and neighborhood plans will refine these issues further, and define the scope and applicability of the criteria for a particular neighborhood or district.

The criteria can generally be applied to all development **thru** out the city, however, there are three or four areas of the city that requires greater attention because of their high degree of visibility, a strong historic identity, or having an unusual cultural background. The subareas are:

1. Neighborhood business districts.
2. City Entries
3. Open spaces
- 4 Distinctive neighborhoods need to be preserved.

Urban Form

Urban form refers to the fiscal shape of the city as determined by landforms, by the concentration of construction, and the spaces surrounding the developed areas. Although the

natural forms of the city can be altered very little we can do a great deal to affect their **man** made elements, such as leveling buildings, widening roads, etc.

Grand City MI has a distinctive urban form created by a concentrated business core. Five major East-West thoroughfares cross the **inner** city and two interstate highways intersect on the north side of town. Several national chains, that are Fortune 500 companies, have their national headquarters in Grand City. They are

Montezuma Gold Inc., with assets of 1.5 million

Rutgers Food Products, assets totalling two million

Moss Services, over a billion in assets, and Jo **Inc.** with two and a half million in assets.

Beside this **boommimg** commercial activity, there are numerous **auxillary** shopping strips, mainly in the outlying suburbs. All of this development results from the city's distinct topography; the varied elevation, the Southeasterly flow of the Mohawk river, and the absense of thick vegetation. **Unfortunatly** many commercial inovations have eroded this distinctive form; making Grand City appear similar to anywhere in the U. S. A. Awareness of land use issues are essential in creating a favorable urban frm. In addition, both public and private groups will effect the character of the city by the ways in which they target investments and our energies are directed.

Urban Construction

Because of the raising of unemployment in recent years urban construction has slowed considerably. The lack of new construction sites have lead to a greater laxity in zoning standards because the city fathers are so anxious to increase the tax base. Effects of less zoning standards include the following; rising air pollution, especially in the inner city, congested fieways on the north side of town, (the Bend Rose area), and inadequate low income housing.

To combat these problems, urban designers must plan for parks and other open areas. They also need to work with the Industrial Committee allied with the Chamber of Commerce to locate appropriate sights for commercial developers, **e.g.**, parcels of land with accessible highways and at least 1 mile **from residential** areas. Working with **this** committee, much improvement can be expected.