



# **Oakland Unified School District Closures**

**How we got here, the current fight to keep schools open and what might be next**

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# STORY DESCRIPTION

**OUSD announced plans to close, merge or downsize at least seven schools due to budget shortfalls and declining enrollment. Opponents of the action point to how the closures will disproportionately afflict Black and brown students. This comes as students, especially from marginalized communities, have already had their education and mental health negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.**

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# DEFINE || The best way to present our content

1. It'll emphasise the humanity of the subjects, so lots of pics and vids of students and teachers
2. It'll have data in multiple forms: interactive maps, databases, line charts, bar charts, etc.
3. "Choose your adventure" or other possible games
4. It won't just be visual but also have audio, such as featuring voices of children
5. Display activism/community organization such as embedding tweets, hashtags, etc.
6. A clock/timer/calendar/timeline? To show timeline of board decisions, length of hunger strikes, expected closures etc.
7. It'll show the demographics of the students and how the school closures will change their ability to get to school (ex: if they have to travel farther on the map)
8. Show how OUSD compares to other districts on the map

# BRAINSTORM LIST

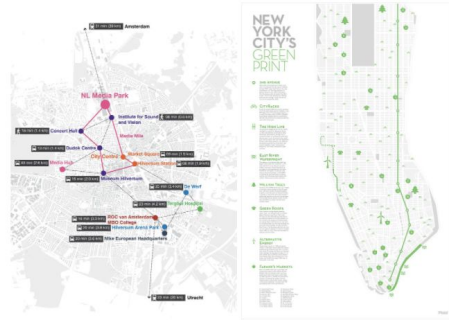
For this part, our group created a brainstorming session google doc and here are some screenshots!

Interactive timeline about the implementing phase which will connect with a map and other



supplement materials

Interactive map (we can make our data and phases into this map instead of listing them separately)



graphs/charts of stats



## Demographics:

Test scores across schools

How much each school has in their fundraising account

Enrollment numbers

Distance/geography

number of students

time(phase)

layers in maps(time as a dimension)

students ethnicity/race

Which are closed and which are merged

Percentage of students that are eligible for free/reduced lunch

Percentage of students who use public transportation

- How do students get to school now, and how will that change with the school closures

## Comparison:

1: parallel: the revenue and basic data of schools in other regions(like east oakland, berkeley,...)

2: time: the demographics change over time in this area(age distribution, race, number, birth rate, percentage of having kids or married, etc.)

Game? Oooh that could be cool (I KNOWWW)[Cooool, I vote for ittttt!!!!]

- “Choose your adventure” type game/interactive
- [Our 11 Favorite Multimedia Storytelling Platforms - Uncubed](#) [I went through each of them, many of them do not work now, the rest...takeaway is this one <https://twinery.org/> which still works]
- <https://ub4q.itch.io/ifnotus> (the form is interesting but we can have better interactions)
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## audio:

Voices of kids (actual voices, I mean they are so cute and genuine and they are the community who are directly impacted by this)

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## **audio:**

Voices of kids (actual voices, I mean they are so cute and genuine and they are the community who are directly impacted by this)

## **One example: POV**

Laki's graduate thesis: what's it like to be an Indian woman and go out for a day (POV)

How to quantify/visualize and show|instead of telling that a kid's life is becoming more difficult because his or her school is closed/merged with other schools.

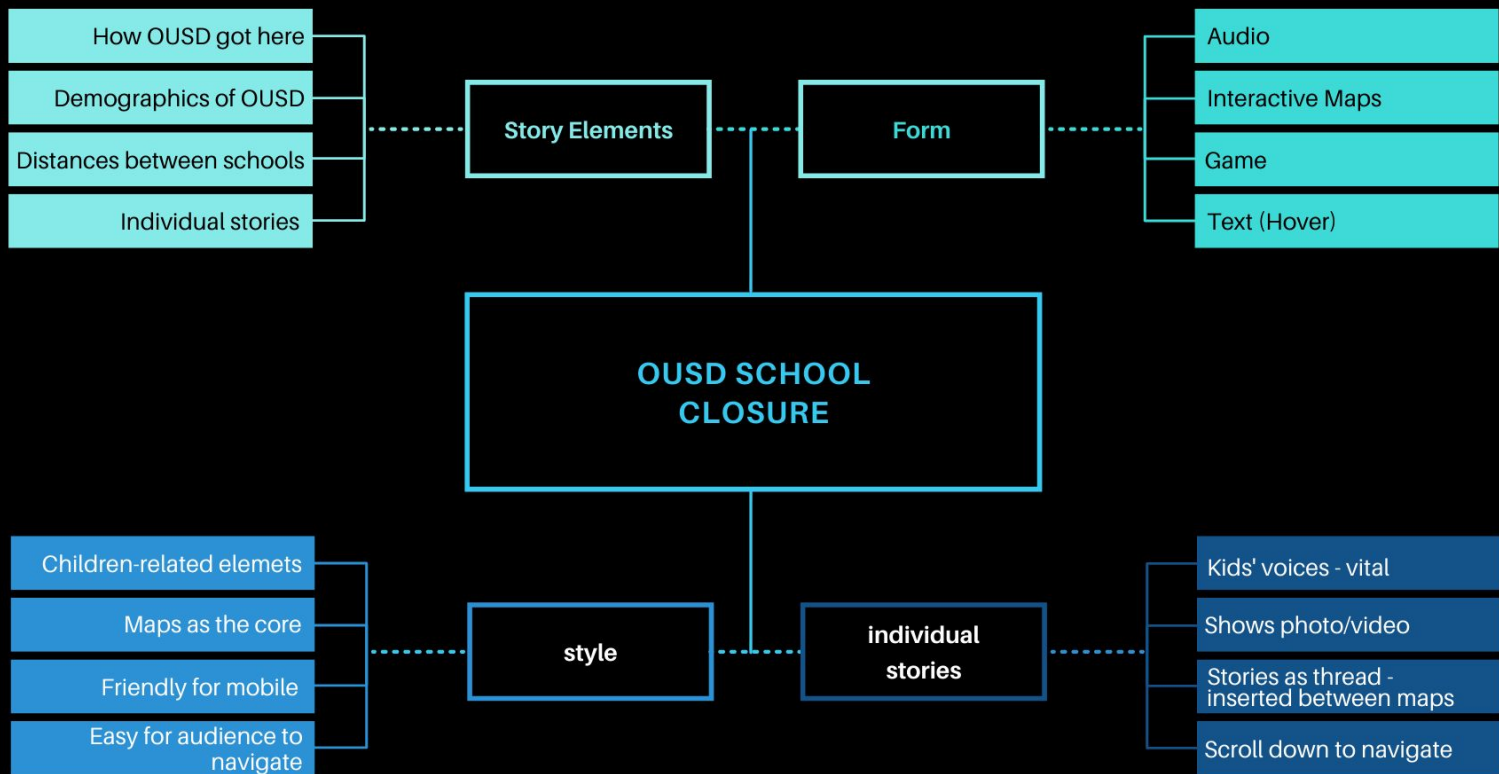
Videos: (Nah I don't know how to bring in visual elements)

How far the child has to walk now?

Demographics of the old school and welcoming schools

History component

# MIND MAP



# RESEARCH || COLLECT

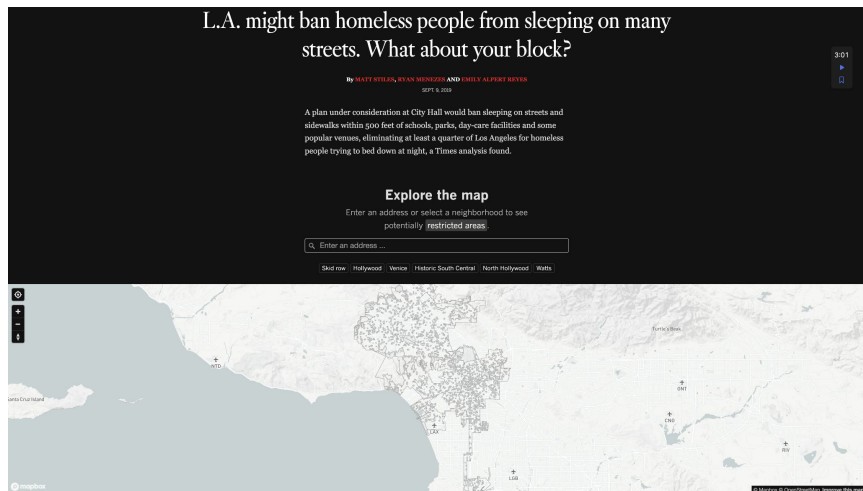


## INSPO!

We found several multimedia examples we can refer to.

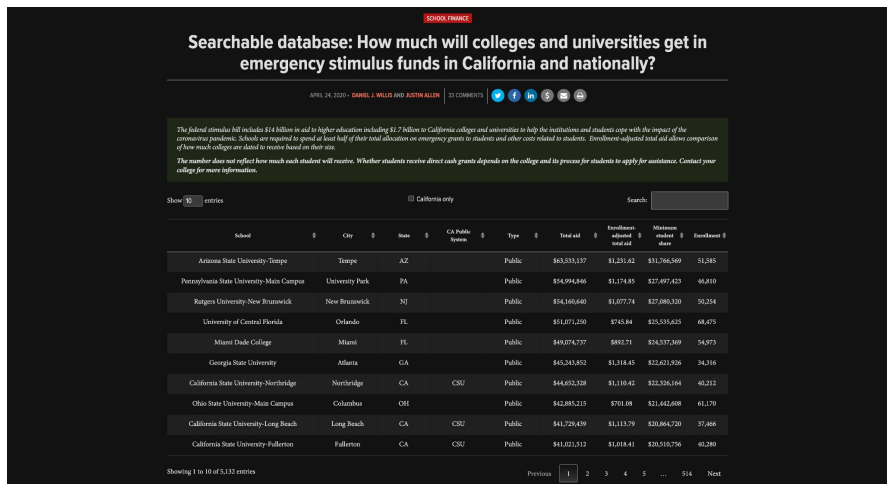
# Design Reference

Show screenshots and URLs to work that we've collected.



<https://www.latimes.com/projects/homeless-sleeping-maps/>

An interactive map that outlines the affected areas of a previously considered ban on sleeping in public sidewalks. We can do something like this by mapping out school closures and highlighting impacted areas.



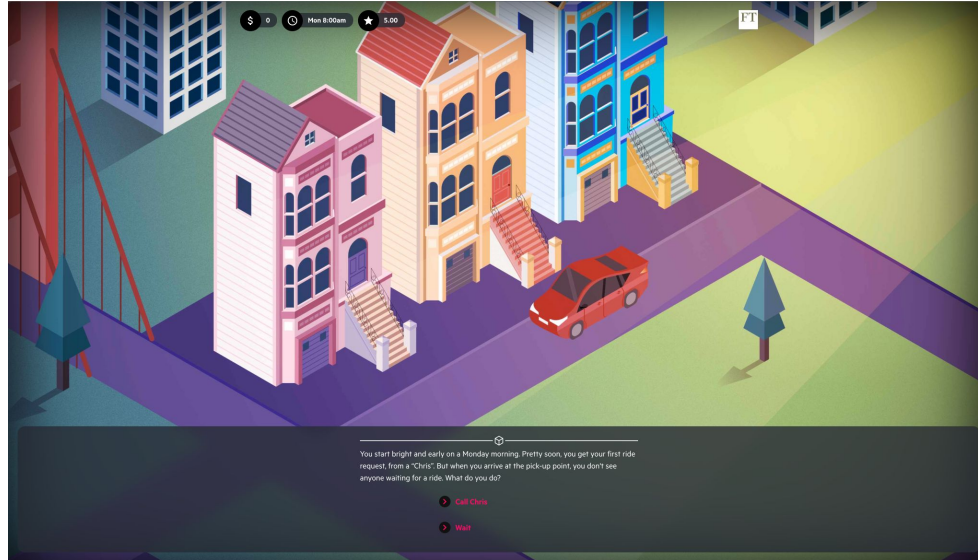
<https://edsources.org/2020/searchable-database-how-much-will-california-colleges-get-in-emergency-stimulus-funds/628749>

A database of COVID aid funds for universities. We can do our own searchable database like this that contains data of the schools' enrollment and funding.



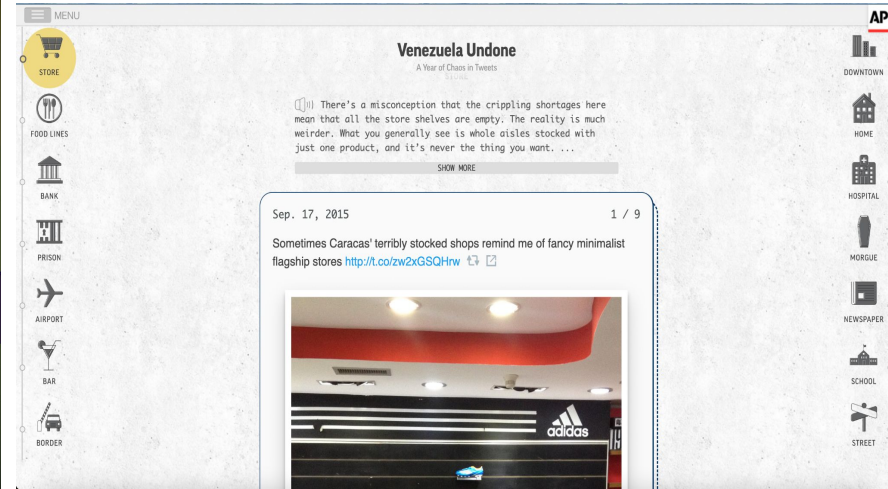
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<https://ig.ft.com/uber-game/>

“The Uber Game” by the Financial Times, a choose your own adventure news piece that we can do our own version of.

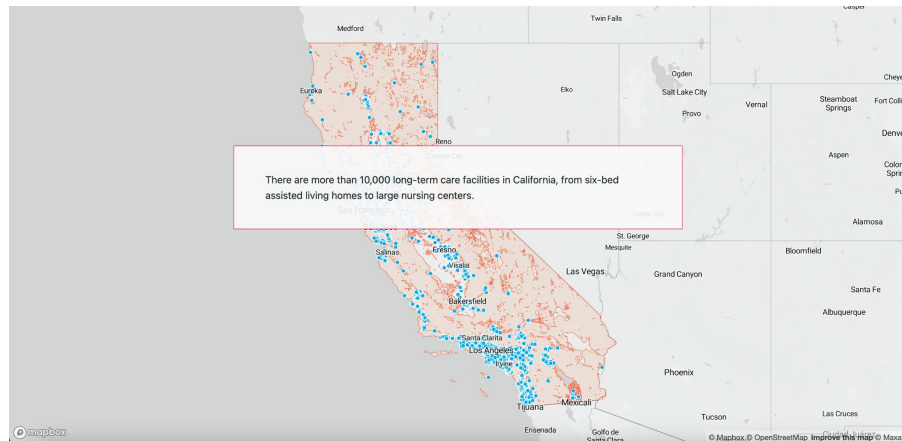


<https://interactives.ap.org/2016/venezuela-in-tweet-s/>

“Venezuela Undone” by AP, an interactive that we can base our project off us by showing a student’s day-to-day life.

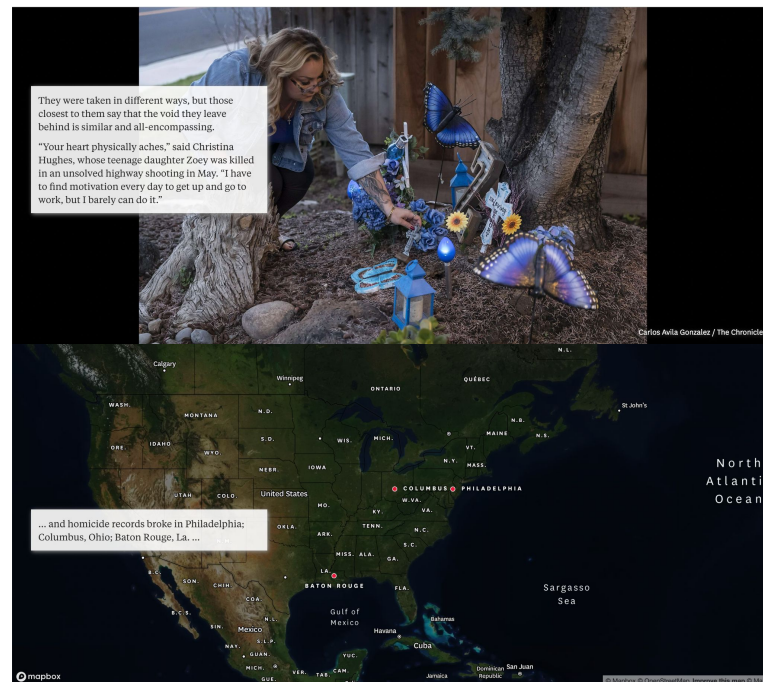
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<https://data.kqed.org/olderandoverlooked/index.html>

"How wildfires endanger older californians" by KQED. It is a classic zoom-in and zoom-out data story using the California map and hover text.



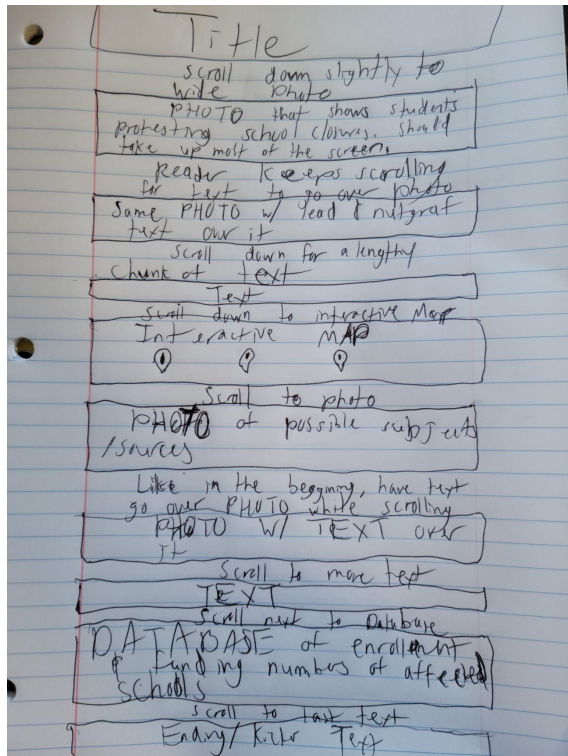
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/projects/2022/remembering-victims-oakland-deadly-year-2021/>

"Remembering the victims of a deadly year in Oakland" by SF Chronicle. A combination of personal stories and interactive maps.

# SKETCH IT OUT!



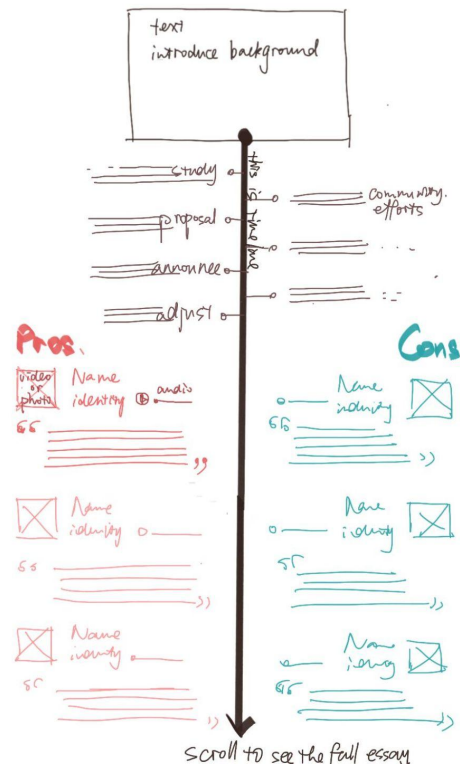
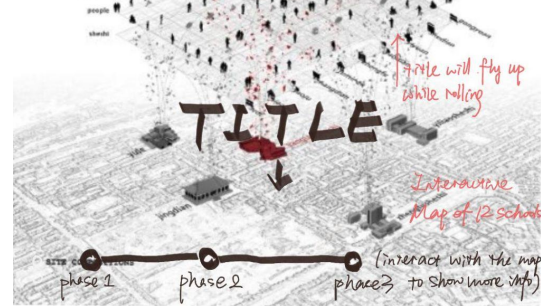
# Our Sketches



A layout of what readers would see as they scroll through our story

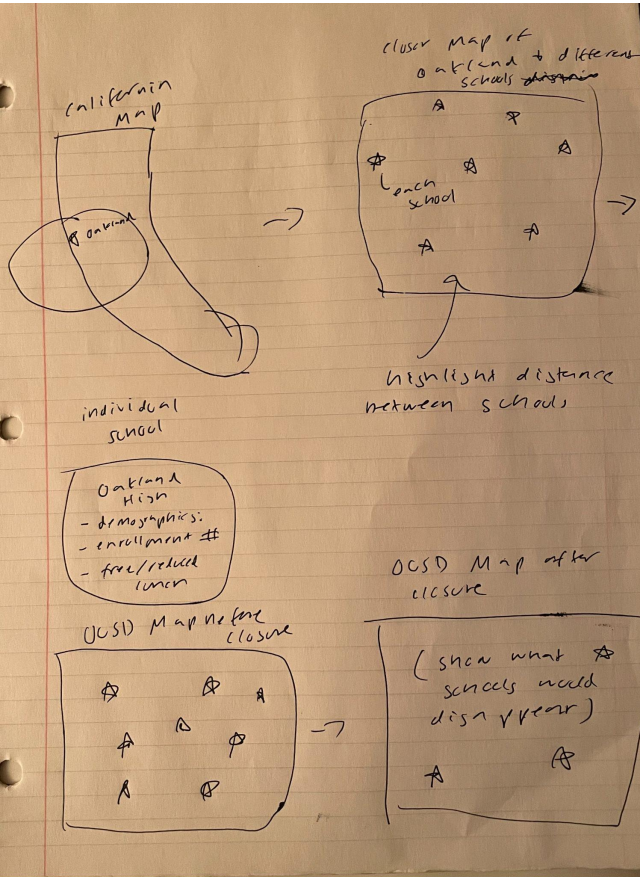
To show the whole picture of the story:

1. Category and map the schools  
*Show the plan visually and interactively(also on the map)*
2. Timeline for the proposal given-into-birth process and community efforts
3. A “debate” between two forces
4. The full article



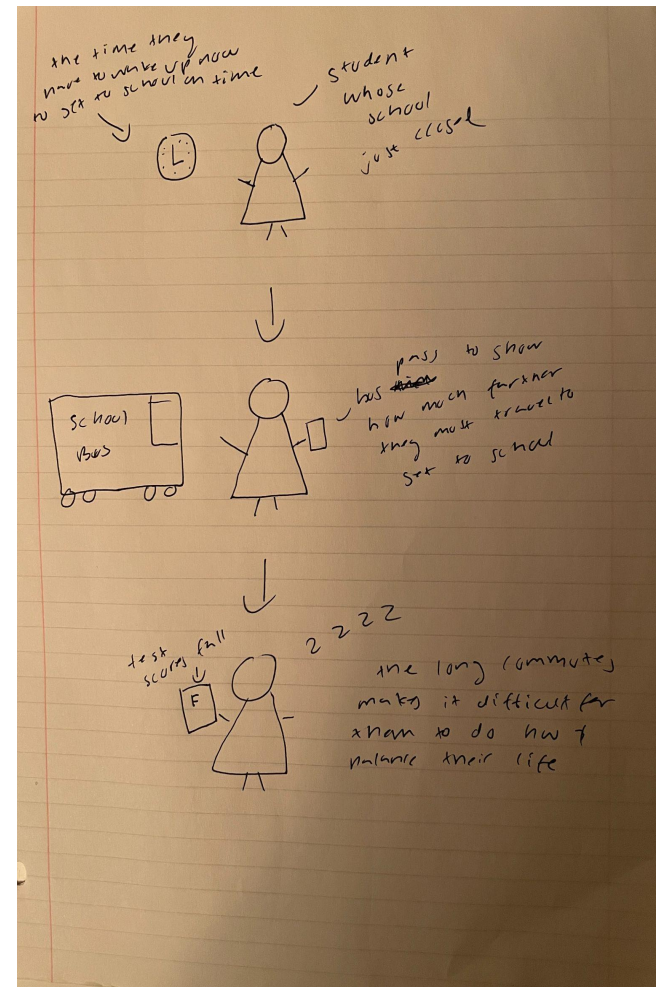


# Our Sketches



Use map/contrast tools, such as StoryMap and Juxtapose from Knight Lab to show how the district would change after the closures. Highlight the disparities by showing the demographics of each individual school (Left)

Walk through a student's new schedule after their old school has been closed (pov/choose your own adventure). Show how their mode of transportation is forced to change, their schedules, etc and how that may impact their education. (Right)



**Thank you for listening!**  
**We look forward to FEEDBACK from you!**