Sharing Experiences

# **English 150, Spring 2019**

(400-500 words)

## **Overview**

In this assignment, you will create and describe an on-campus place that is important to you. To do this, you will create a map of a location on campus that is significant in your life. This map may be hand-drawn or you can create it digitally. You may not simply print out an existing map and label/highlight it. You will then build a narrative that describes the space by explaining what it means to the campus and what it means to you. The written component may be an essay or a letter, and in either case it should be for someone who has not experienced this place. You must connect this space to campus as a whole as well as to yourself. Your goal is to share this place with a specific audience of your choosing, so make sure to keep that audience in mind while designing and writing. What would the audience need to know to better understand your map? Why do you want to share this place with this specific audience? What might they gain from your map/description?

## **Planning Your Project:**

1. Who is your audience? A friend at a different school? An incoming freshman in your program? A stranger on the internet looking for student perspectives?
2. What space will you map/describe? Locations to place on your map might include:
   * The place on campus or in Ames where you live
   * A building important to you
   * Common routes of travel (to classes, lunch, club meetings, etc.)
   * Locations of people who are important in your life right now
   * Favorite places for entertainment, studying, exploring, relaxing
   * Places where memorable things happened
   * Landmarks, bodies of water, physical features of the place
   * Tucked-away places that surprise or interest you
3. Reflect on what this space means to you. Why is it distinctive to you? How does this part of campus represent your developing experience of your “larger” new place (ISU, higher education, your next steps in life) and how you are navigating the transition to between where you have come from and where you are now?
4. Reflect on what this space means to campus.
   * Review ISU’s land grant information and mission
   * Reflect on the accessibility of the location – both getting to it and navigating around it. How might others experience this place based on these things?
   * Explore the space again as a researcher rather than a casual

visitor. Are there features that you’ve missed? Things in this space that you may not interact with but hold importance?

### **ePortfolio Connection**

Use this assignment to practice web writing and adding media to your ePortfolio. Reformat your writing for the web, and add your map as a picture or PDF. If you choose to draw your map by hand, you can find scanners in Parks Library.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

At a minimum, your paper needs to satisfy the general criteria below. However, the grade is based not just on whether a feature is present or not, but on how well it has been integrated into your paper. Your instructor will provide you with a rubric that includes criteria specific to this assignment. Also see your ISUComm Foundation Courses Student Guide, 2017 – 2019 about evaluation of individual projects.

### **Context**

* Thoughtful and perceptive treatment of topic; original approach; scope sufficiently narrow
* Purpose is clear (educate, entertain, persuade) and consistent. The “So what?” question is answered
* Clear sense of audience & attention to audience’s needs. Introduction engages audience’s interest.

### **Substance**

* + - Content is fully developed, relevant, and substantial; detail carefully chosen and specific.

### **Organization**

* + - Focuses on a precise, interesting and insightful point or thesis that guides development and organization
    - Introduction provides overview of organization. Conclusion sums up key points.
    - Document looks like a letter or essay.
    - Follows a logical arrangement for this material appropriately organized into paragraphs.
    - Relationship among ideas is clear; coherent; transitional devices used to guide reader.

### **Style**

* + - Expression is clear and concise. Good choices in use of dialogue, details, visuals
    - Vocabulary is precise, vivid and appropriate word choice
    - Conventions/Correctness: Writing is free from sentence-level errors and word choice errors

### **Delivery**

* + Consistency in typography, headings. Visuals appropriately integrated into text
  + Map is understandable with useful label.