

Neighborhood case study – Initial visit worksheet
WCSC 387 Race, Space, and Inequality – Spring 2024

On Saturday, January 13, you will work with partners to make initial field visits to the neighborhoods you will be studying this term. Before you leave, identify the commercial corridor in each neighborhood that you will explore and make a travel plan. It is up to you which neighborhood you visit first.

Instructions

1) Go out to lunch at an independent eatery in one of the neighborhoods (not a chain; no more than three locations). Find out when the business opened and how long the current owners have owned the business. Take note of who is patronizing the business and how it feels to you to be there.

Business opened: _____

Current owners since: _____

2) Identify and walk down a commercial corridor in your neighborhood. Take note of the types of businesses present and **take pictures** of two that you would describe as typical for that corridor. Record here the names and addresses of those two businesses.

Name and address of business #1: _____

Name and address of business #2: _____

4) Take note of the condition of the housing stock. Are houses well-maintained? Do you see vacant properties? Properties for sale? Do you see construction? Identify two houses or apartment buildings that appear typical for the neighborhood. **Take pictures** of those buildings and record their locations and the date and price of most recent sale using www.zillow.com.

Address: _____ Sale date: _____ Sale price: _____

Address: _____ Sale date: _____ Sale price: _____

5) Observe a few public places and make note of the people you see. Describe them (at least as they appear to you). Age? Gender? Race? Ethnicity? Class? What kinds of things are people doing? What patterns do you observe about what behavior is acceptable in public places in this neighborhood? What languages do you hear spoken? What languages do you see on signs?

7) Identify a church or house of worship in the neighborhood. **Take a picture** of the building. What faith or denomination worships there? Try to find out how long that congregation been in that location. When was the building originally built and what did it originally house?

Name of house of worship: _____ Faith / denomination: _____

Year founded: _____ Year building built: _____

8) Find a piece of public art and **take a picture** of it. Where is it located? What does it represent? Is it targeted at a particular audience or does it reflect a particular group's experience?

9) Keep your eyes open for any historical markers or other representations of the neighborhood's history. What can you learn about the neighborhood's past and how it has changed?

10) Visit a public library and ask a library for help finding resources about the neighborhood, including print materials at the library and other organizations or websites that might be helpful sources of information about the neighborhood and its history.

Initial visit report

Due: 1/25 (Week 3) by 11am

In this report, you will describe the neighborhood for somebody who has never been there, drawing on your observations and the information you collected during your initial visit to the neighborhood. This is your first pass at telling the story of the neighborhood. Focus on reporting your impressions, observations, feelings, and things you learned, *rather than* giving a report of the things you did while you were there. How did it feel? What did you notice? What information did you collect? What have you learned that will help you begin to answer the core questions framing this project: (1) *Whose place is this?* (2) *How has this place changed over time?* (3) *How does money move through this place?* Your report should be 900 – 1,200 words long.