Swarthmore College

Works

Digital Humanities Curricular Development   Faculty Development

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Maps And Analysis

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Recommended Citation

English 2V
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Project 1: Maps and Analysis
The purpose of this project is to experiment with rendering information and experience through maps, and to analyze the values and rhetorical strategies present in the maps you create or gather. You can choose from one of the following options:

1. Compose a memory map of a specific location. Without sharing your own map, ask five or more other people to create a memory map of that same locale (they should not be together when they draw their maps, and they should not be in the place itself, since this is about memory mapping). The images you produce and collect will be accompanied by a brief introduction (1 page) that explains why you chose the site and the individuals for your project, and a 3-4 page double-spaced rhetorical analysis comparing the stories the maps tell. Your analysis should call upon concepts and texts we have discussed in class.
2. Using data linked to a specific geography, create two different maps—each of which makes a different argument or tells a different story. The maps may be created by hand or electronically. The images you produce will be accompanied by a brief introduction (1 page) that explains the nature and origins of the data used, and a 3-4 page double-spaced rhetorical analysis comparing the stories the two maps tell. Your analysis should call upon concepts and texts we have discussed in class. For data sets you might consider: www.census.gov/data.html or https://www.wolframalpha.com/examples/society-and-culture/demographics-and-social-statistics/ or http://wefeelfine.org/
    For electronic mapping platforms, you might try https://www.google.com/maps/about/mymaps/ or https://www.targetmap.com/
3. Using a GPS tracking app (such as GPS tracker, which is available for free and allows you to track users on the iPhone and Android) track your movements during your waking hours. Identify 5 or more people who will allow you to follow them for one day using the same app. (Let's talk about whether they will be moving around in the same geographical space, or if there is a different basis of comparison that interests you.) As soon as the day is over, screen shot and/or download their maps; zoom in to interesting places and screen shot those, as well. The collection of maps with their locations pinned across it will be accompanied by an 1 page double spaced introduction in which you discuss the goals of your project and a 3 – 4 page double spaced interpretation of the maps in terms of our readings on mapping and semiotics.

For both options 1 and 3 you should let participants know that their maps will be shared with others as part of a class project. Collect their names, ages, and current locations. Offer them the option for their maps to appear anonymously.

Once you have your materials assembled, you will scan the images (if produced by hand) and compile them along with an appealing front page/cover sheet using Issuu.com (https://issuu.com/signup?plan=free&bold=1&issuu_product=tryissuu&issuu_context=signup&issuu_cta=pricing). You can turn in the images and text as a Word document, via Moodle, and post the link to your Issuu on the forum.

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