

Human Geography (GEG 102)

Place Based Photo Essay Concepts

Place Based Photo Essay 1*

***PLEASE NOTE:** For Place Based Photo Essay 1, you must choose from Concepts: 1a (Where are you from?), 1b (Topophilia), or 1c (Topophobia).

Concept 1a: Where are you from?

Assignment: Concept 1a challenges you to examine and reflect on the place you are from and then find a picture and write an essay that explains “who you are” through the feelings that link you to that location and its environment. Clearly, our “sense of place” (the attachments we have to specific locations and their attributes) is unique to each of us. Your picture should be a representation of where you are from. Your essay should explain why the place you are from is important to you and how it has influenced who you are (e.g. your ideas, beliefs, values, customs, etc.). Ask yourself if the place you are from is home and what attaches you to that place? How does it comfort you and your senses? Describe the relationship between the physical and cultural landscapes as well as the culture of its residents. Be sure to inform me if something is “destroying” the place you are from. You may also include imbedded links that depict a map and/or aerial image of the place. Prove that you understand the importance of geography in your life.

Concept 1b: Topophilia (love of place)

Assignment: Human Geographer, Yi-Fu Tuan, coined the term *Topophilia* to describe human “love of place.” It refers to the positive feelings that link humans to particular locations and environments. Concept 1b challenges you to examine and reflect on a place from your past that you love and then find a picture and write an essay about the place. Your picture should be a representation of the place you love. Your essay should explain why you chose the place, why you love the place, why the place is important to you, and how the place you love has influenced or reflects who you are (e.g. ideas, beliefs, values, customs, etc.). You may also include imbedded links that depict a map and/or aerial image of the place you love. As always, prove that you understand the importance of geography in your life.

OR

Concept 1c: Topophobia (fear of place/disliking a place)

Assignment: Human Geographer, Yi-Fu Tuan, coined the term *Topophobia* to describe human “fear of place” or the experience of feeling “out of place.” It refers to the negative feelings that link humans to particular locations and environments. Concept 1c challenges you to examine and reflect on a place from your past that you fear and/or dislike and then find a picture and write an essay about the place. Your picture should be a representation of the place you dislike. Your essay should explain why you chose the place, why you dislike the place, why the place is important to you, and how the place you dislike has influenced or reflects who you are (e.g. ideas, beliefs, values, customs, taboos, etc.). You may also include imbedded links that depict a map and/or aerial image of the place you dislike. As always, prove that you understand the importance of geography in your life.

Place Based Photo Essay 2*

***PLEASE NOTE:** For Place Based Photo Essay 2, you must choose from Concepts 2a (Where would you like to visit?), 2b (Where would you like to live?), 2c (where would you like to retire?), or 2d (where do you want to be left?).

Concept 2a: What place would you like to visit?

Assignment: Concept 2a challenges you to evaluate and explore a place you would like to visit in the future and then find a picture and write an essay that tells me where you want to go and why. Your picture should be a representation of the place you would like to visit. Your essay should focus on why you want to go there. Your essay should explain why you chose the place, why the place is important to you, and how the place will influence or reflect your personality and goals (e.g. ideas, beliefs, values, customs, etc.). Explain what the destination has to offer and why it is the place to do it. What time of the year do you want to go? How do you want to get there? Where do you want to stay and how do you want to get around? What do you want to do, eat, drink, hear, feel, and smell? Describe the relationship between the physical and cultural landscapes as well as the culture of its residents. Obviously, many vacation destinations are tourist-traps, artificial/superficial, and dominated by homogeneous cultural landscapes. If this is true for your destination, try to find remnants of place somewhere or explain why you would want to travel to such a place. You may also include imbedded links that depict a map and/or aerial image of the place, driving directions to your destination, and/or a discount travel site's deals for the place you would like to visit. As always, prove that you understand the importance of geography in your life.

Concept 2b: Where would you like to live?

Assignment: Place utility is defined as a measure of an individual's perceived approval of a place in its social, economic, or environmental attributes. It is a measure of the satisfaction that an individual derives from a location relative to his or her personality and goals. Place utility is subjective but experience (e.g. residency) generally results in a more valid perception. Concept 2b challenges you to evaluate and explore the place you would like to live in the future and then find a picture and write an essay that tells me "who you want to be" through the place utility of this location and its environment. Your picture should be a representation of the place you would like to live. Your essay should explain what this place has to offer you in its economic, social, and environmental attributes. It should explain why you chose the place, why the place is, or will be, important to you, and how the place will influence or reflect your personality and goals (e.g. ideas, beliefs, values, customs, etc.). Tell me why this is where you need to live, what attaches you to this place, and your perceptions of life there. Describe its best attributes, explain the worst attributes, and weigh these factors against your needs, wants, and aspirations. Explain where and how the attributes of this place will succeed in fulfilling you. Describe the relationship between the physical and cultural landscapes as well as the culture of its residents. You may also include imbedded links that depict a map and/or aerial image of the place you want to live or to the design of the community or house. Make sure the design you choose is a reflection of "who you want to be" and make the statement you desire to convey. As always, prove that you understand the importance of geography in your life.

Concept 2c: Where would you like to retire?

Assignment: Concept 2c challenges you to evaluate and explore the place you would like to retire in the future and then find a picture and write an essay that tells me how you want to spend the last chapter of your life through the place utility of this location and its environment. Your picture should be a representation of the place you would like to retire. Your essay should explain what this place has to offer you in its economic, social, and environmental attributes. It should explain why you chose the place, why the place is or will be important to you, and how the place will influence or reflect your personality and goals (e.g. ideas, beliefs, values, customs, etc.). Tell me why this is where you need to retire, what attaches you to this place, and your perceptions of life there. Describe its best attributes, explain the worst attributes, and weigh these factors against your needs, wants, and aspirations. Explain how the attributes of this place will comfort you and your senses? Describe the relationship between the physical and cultural landscapes as well as the culture of its

residents. You may also include imbedded links that depict a map and/or aerial image of the place you want to retire or to the design of the community or house. Make sure the design you choose is a reflection of “who you want to be” and make the statement you desire to convey. As always, prove that you understand the importance of geography in your life.

OR

Concept 2d: Where do you want to be left?

Assignment: Concept 2d challenges you to evaluate and explore the place you would like to be left after you die and then find a picture and write an essay that tells me why you want your remains to spend “eternity” at that location. Disposal of the dead reflects a culture’s customs and taboos. Cemeteries are evolving cultural landscapes. Geography studies disposal customs and is uniquely interested in the interpretation of monument style and symbolism, the spatial placement and arrangement of cemeteries, and the evolution of memorialization. Memorialization is a search for immortality and represents your last opportunity to define “who you were.” Memorialization gives you the opportunity to communicate your ideas, beliefs, values, and customs and represents what you held important to the living. Please describe the physical as well as the cultural landscapes and explain what “attaches” you to this place. Your picture should be a representation of the place you would like to be left. Your essay should explain why this is the place to dispose of your body. It should explain why you chose the place, why the place is, or will be, important to you, and how the place reflects who you were (e.g. ideas, beliefs, values, customs, taboos, etc.). You may also include imbedded links that depict a map and/or aerial image of the place you want to be left and/or to the design of a monument. The style and symbolism you choose should be a reflection of who you were and make the statement you desire to convey. As always, prove that you understand the importance of geography in your life and in this case, death.