

Assignment 2: Explore the South End and Dudley Square

Due: 5 pm, Tuesday, February 24

For this assignment, you will use the MBTA and the Boston Research Map to explore parts of the South End and Lower Roxbury, two neighborhoods that we will be discussing in the next two weeks. You will summarize your trip in a 6-page, double-spaced, write-up that should include a photograph, a map, and jottings from the field with an explanation of how you turned the jottings into narrative.

In particular, you will observe people and places as you ride the #1 bus from Harvard Square to Dudley Square in Roxbury and the Silver Line, which passes through the South End on its way from Dudley Square to South Station, where you can pick up the Red Line, and return to Harvard Square.* You will also use the Boston Research Map to explore the characteristics of some of the areas you travel through on the bus and train. You also are welcome to (but not required to) to explore places along this journey.

Here are specific instructions:

1. Record Your Initial Impressions and Do Some Pre-Field Research

Before you go online or on the bus, write one or two paragraphs about your impressions of the South End and Lower Roxbury. You can draw on what you've heard, seen or read about them and, if you've been to either area, what you've seen and felt. Next, using Google Maps (or something like it) take a look at the route you'll be travelling (and how long the trip is likely to take). Using the Boston Research Map (or another tool) take a look at some basic demographic data for the areas you'll pass through. Pick two or three that you think are particularly interesting or telling. Finally, using online tools (such as Google Search, Google News, Wikipedia, etc.), take 15 to 25 minutes to see how the areas and their histories are portrayed online. Write one or two paragraphs summarizing the general impression you get from these on-line sources as well as two or three questions you have about Lower Roxbury and the South End.

2. Travel and Observe

As you travel on the #1 Bus, the Silver Line and the Red Line, play close attention both to the people using the bus (and train) and the areas you pass through. In particular, notice who is getting on and off the buses and train and what they do while they are travelling, including how they interact (or don't interact) with each other. If possible, you should also look out the window to see whether and how the places you pass through change. You also should feel free to (but are not required to) explore some of the areas you'll pass through. (Note that the Silver Line's Blackstone Square stop is about a five-minute walk from both West Newton Street, where Colin Diver, a key

* If you buy a CharlieCard at the Harvard Square T Station before your trip, you should be able to pay only one fare for all three parts of the journey. You'll need at least \$2.10 on the card.

United States and the World 24: Assignment #2

character in Common Ground, lived; and Villa Victoria, a Latino-focused affordable housing development built in the 1970s that we'll be discussing on February 19.)

Use a small notebook (and a tape recorder if you'd like) to record both your thoughts *and* your physical, sensory experiences. For example: how do different people regard your, and others' personal space? Do you feel like you're properly navigating the social norms on the buses and the train, or do you find yourself bumping into people and apologizing a lot? What do the buses and the train sound and smell like? These "jottings" should not be in narrative form. Rather, because you need to keep your eyes, ears, and nose open, they should be notes that might jog your memory for a later, more elaborate narrative. If questions occur to you while in the field, write them down.

You also must take at least one photo on your journey. You can also elect to capture a snippet of sound that captures some essence of the trip (you can use the Voice Memo tool on your phone, or download an audio app like SoundCloud). Finally, you should have at least one informal conversation with someone during your visit.

3. Translate Jottings into Fieldnotes

When you return, translate your jottings into narrative account of your journey and then edit this account to create a 3-4-page description. As part of this effort, feel free to explore use the Boston Research Map to answer questions you had about what you saw. Your account should include a basic description and impressions, and should be illustrated by specific observations as well as something from a conversation you had. It also should include a photograph with text explaining what is shown in that photograph and a map showing something about the demographics or character of the area you visited (or part of the area you visited). You also should include an example of your jottings with a note explaining how you turned those jottings into narrative.

4. Reflect on Your Visit: Emergent Themes and Questions

Write two or three paragraphs on tentative themes that emerge from the exercise, with a particular focus on: the ways in which the trip compares to your expectations; the ways your experience most surprise you; and the questions your observations raise (about the places you visited and the ways you might better understand them).

5. Put the Elements Together

Finally, you should combine these elements into double-spaced, six-page document with 12-point type and one-inch margins that should include:

- Initial impressions and questions (approximately one page)
- Descriptive narrative with a photo, map, and an example of your jottings (approximately four pages)
- Summary themes and questions about the areas you had after your visit (approximately one page)

These elements should be submitted through the link on the course's Canvas site. Please also upload your photo as a separate file. If your submission includes digital audio or visual components upload them as separate files as well.