

History Pin Final Assignment

- Abstract and Bibliography, due Monday, March 11
- Final Project, posted online by the start of class on Wednesday, May 1

For this assignment, you are required to select a minimum of five locations in the New Jersey, New York, or Pennsylvania city of your choice. You can also select sites in multiple cities, if you are interested in a comparative focus. The sites you select will be arranged and curated as part of a tour on the website HistoryPin (<http://www.historypin.com/>). Your tour will analyze a specific theme in urban history, and explain why you are grouping your sites together. As we have been discussing in class, you have a fair amount of freedom when choosing your theme. You can focus on deindustrialization, cultural venues, architecture, gentrification, locations of public protest, etc. The most important thing is that you present an argument (or thesis) as to how the sites you have chosen help us to better understand how cities have been constructed as a social, cultural, and economic spaces, and how they have changed over time. You want to explain to your audiences what your sites tell us about the different uses and meanings that humans have imposed upon urban space.

Requirements:

For each of your five locations, you must provide a minimum of one primary source per site. A primary source can be a first person account from a newspaper, an oral history, a historic photograph, a song lyric (Lou Reed waiting for his man on Lexington and 125, for example), a passage from a novel (Philip Roth's fictional Newark), a government document, an advertisement, etc. I encourage you to be creative; try to include sources that uniquely describe and map the spaces that you are interpreting.

If you are unsure about whether a text or image qualifies as a primary source, please ask me. We will also have an opportunity to review your sources when you submit your abstract and bibliography.

In addition to the primary sources attached to the sites you select, you will also be required to use and list a minimum of three secondary sources as the bibliography for your tour.

These should be books and articles from creditable authors – **RANDOM WEBSITES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE SECONDARY SOURCES**. You want to use sources that reflect serious research on your subject. Your secondary sources do not necessarily need to be site specific. For example, if you are writing about gentrification in a particular city, you could use in your bibliography a source that discusses gentrification as a general process, even if the focus is not on your location.

Abstract and Bibliography:

Your preliminary abstract and bibliography is due on Monday, March 11. I will set-up an “Assignment” page on our SAKAI site where you can post this. Please include:

- A list of the five sites that you will be examining and the primary sources that you plan on using
- A list of the secondary sources you will be reading
- A one or two paragraph abstract, which outlines what you hope to argue about these locations and your significance

As your project develops further, you may end up departing from what you initially outlined in your abstract and preliminary bibliography. However, please take this seriously and use it as an opportunity to think through how you will complete the project. I will be responding to your abstract and bibliography to help guide you further.

Posting Your Final Project:

Please see the attached pdf from HistoryPin that provides basic instructions on using the site. This is also in the “Resources” section of our SAKAI site.

While I am happy to answer questions that might arise in the course of putting your final project together, do not email me two days before the assignment is due telling me you don’t understand how to use HistoryPin. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the way this website works.

Before posting, you will need to know the following:

- Title for the source you are posting
- A description of the source and its relationship to its location on the map (50-100 words)
- The link from which you got the image (if you are using a digital source from an online archive)
- Its copyright status
- When the image or source was created
- A list of tags you want to use to call attention to the pin

After you have created your five individual “pins,” you will be ready to link them in a tour. The tour will require you to have:

- A title for your tour
- Your main essay for the assignment (1000-1500 words in length) – this will be entered as the Tour Description
- The order in which you want your sites to appear on the tour

Resources:

Here is a list of resources that you might use in locating primary sources. This is by no means exhaustive.

<http://libguides.rutgers.edu/content.php?pid=128404&sid=1186925> – this is the link to the Rutgers Libraries list of online databases dealing with North American history. It includes a range of different sources such as African American newspapers, women's diaries, and historical Sanborn insurance maps for New Jersey, documenting where buildings were located.

http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/libs/scua/scua_rucore_portal.shtml - Digital Collections in RUCore. Rutgers Libraries' collection of digitized materials.

<http://www.loc.gov/index.html> - The Library of Congress's website. This contains a wide-range of digitized sources.

<http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/index.cfm> - The New York Public Library's digital gallery of images. Will be especially helpful for projects looking at NYC.

<http://njdigitalhighway.org/> - The New Jersey Digital Highway. Contains digitized archival sources from a variety of different New Jersey collections.

<http://www.ebay.com/> - Helpful mainly if you are interested in using historic postcards.

http://slic.njstatelib.org/NJ_Information/Digital_Collections/index.php - Another online site of digitized materials, administered by the NJ State Library.

<http://www.nbfpl.org/local.html> - the New Brunswick Public Library's collection of digitized local newspapers. Helpful for projects focusing on New Brunswick.