

Mapping Our Memories

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In this workshop we'll tap into past memories by first drawing a rough map identifying the places and spaces that represented the focus of our world—and the people and activities in it—at a particular phase of life. What spaces were important at age 5? 10? 20? 40? Then we'll write about a memory associated with a particular mapped place/space/experience.

First, think of some space that was very important to you at any time in your life. It could be a house or one room in that house, a school or one room in that school, a place of worship, a workplace, the street that your house was/is on, a public library or a specific room in that library, a playground or a specific area in that playground, a store or a specific space in that store, an historic site, an imaginary place, a fictional place, or someplace else.

Second, draw a rough map of that place. Don't be concerned about how rough it is; you can refine it later if that is a priority for you.

Third, if time permits, do a little storyboard for the space.

Fourth, consider the following questions for discussion and writing:

Questions for Discussion and Writing

1. What space did you draw?
2. Why did you choose this space?
3. What are the most salient physical features of this space?
4. What are your most vivid memories of this space?
5. What affective/emotional connections do you have to this space?
6. What role(s) has this space played in your life or the lives of others?
7. What photographs or other kinds of images of this space are available?
8. What stories do you associate with this space?
9. If were to storyboard some moments for the space, what would that storyboard include?
10. If you were to commemorate this space, what would be an appropriate way to do that?
(Note: This exercise is one way to commemorate it.)
11. If you chose a physical space that no longer exists, how does that make you feel?