

Major Paper #1: Spatial Autobiography

Hence the wild daikon.

We've made the landscape mean here.

And then we put down roots.

D. A. Powell, "A Brief History of Internment"

And so we are left to insist on our need to reckon with haunting as a prerequisite for sensuous knowledge and to ponder the paradox of providing a hospitable memory for ghosts out of a concern for justice.

Avery Gordon, *Ghostly Matters: Haunting and the Sociological Imagination*

Your Task

1. Write an autobiographical narrative of your relationship to a place. "Place" here is loosely defined, but I encourage you to gravitate towards smaller, more intimate places, and your place of choice should be no larger than a building or a neighborhood. The larger the place, the harder it will be for you to write about it. "Successful" previous entries include: a dinner table, a bus stop, a grandparent's house, an elevator hallway, a car.
2. Since we are practicing multimodal composition, your writing should aim towards the sensuous. As Gordon herself suggests, haunting is a kind of "sensuous knowledge," a matter of tracing vague shapes borne by fateful hands. A place is something you physically, not just mentally, inhabit (although why your brain is not considered a part of your body I am not sure). Evoke. Conjure. Your own senses are your source of knowledge. When in doubt, describe.
3. Create an audiovisual supplement to your narrative. When using images, be sure to talk about the way(s) of seeing embedded in them, as you have done in the Week #2 journal entry. When using sounds, be sure to talk about its sonic, nonlinguistic properties, as you have done in the Week #3 journal entry.
4. Include at least two citations from two different writers we have read. Be sure to make your pies good and crusty!
5. Have fun.

Rubric

A successful paper

- uses sensuous and concrete language to narrate the relationship between author and place.
- strategically uses the audiovisual supplement to augment the story.
- situates citations properly within claims and explanations.

4.0-3.9—fulfills all three requirements.

3.8-3.5—fulfills two requirements while leaving one undeveloped.

3.4-3.0—fulfills two requirements.

2.9-2.5—fulfills one requirement while leaving one undeveloped.

Format

1,500-2,300 words, Times New Roman, 12 pts., double spaced, 1-inch margins, in .doc/.pdf format.