Project Overview:
We all embody many roles and many identities, some we claim ourselves, and some imposed on us by others. Many times, our identities are associated with specific communities and/or places. These places and/or communities affect our personal experiences and also send messages to others about who we are. Here is your opportunity to assert some control over that message. Choose a place or community that matters to you personally that you think is important for others to learn more about. You will research the place/ community and write an expository essay analyzing why this place/ community matters. Through your paper, you will demonstrate your ability to communicate according to the conventions and expectations of your audience(s).

- **Stance:** This essay asks you to take a stance and support it with evidence, which might include examples from your own experience, observations of others, or current events, among other possibilities. Your stance must be clear to the reader, and you must connect the evidence you present to the claims you make.

- **Rhetorical Situation:** As always, your audience is your instructor and classmates, but you may choose to direct your essay to an ideal reader (while keeping your REAL readers in mind). Who is the best audience for this essay? Is it most effective to address outsiders who might hold certain stereotypes, assumptions, or misconceptions about the identity you are describing? Or is it important to address insiders in the hopes of solidifying or even redefining group identity? Consider the broad context within which you are writing, including social, political, and historical realities or perceptions that shape how people see your topic.

Writing Goals:
To accomplish this purpose, your paper must:
- Contain a concisely stated thesis that clearly establishes your claim about the place/community
- Be arranged according to a recognizable and cohesive structure focused on your thesis or inquiry
- Synthesize primary and secondary research in the form of observations, interviews, unit readings, etc. to construct claims that support your thesis. (Minimum of three sources: one primary & two secondary.)
- Through correct MLA citations of all sources, demonstrate use sufficient textual evidence (quotes and paraphrases) to support your claims.

Getting Ready to Write: Possible Questions to Consider*
- What elements make this place unique? How do you know?
- What is your role in this community/place? How do you see yourself belonging?
- Why should outsiders learn more about this place/community? What can they learn about the experience of being human?
- How might factors such as gender, class, or race affect someone’s experience in you community/place?

*You may choose to address any combination of these questions, or instead write on another topic dealing with a place/community of your choosing. Consider this list to be a starting point rather than a directive.

Requirements:
- 750-1250 words, double-spaced (approximately 3-5 pages)
- Cite all sources (quotes AND paraphrases) in MLA format—at least 3 sources, one primary and two secondary
- MLA-style formatting for headings, margins, line spacing, and page numbers
- 12-point Times New Roman font

Major Due Dates:
- Full draft due in class for peer review **Monday, October 22nd**
- Full Revision due in class and on Blackboard **Wednesday, October 24th**