English 2: Argumentative Writing and Critical Thinking MPC

Instructor: Joel Farson

Teenagers and Suburban Space:

Defining Problems, Designing Solutions

Goal of assignment: To identify real-world problems and think critically and creatively to solve them by design.

See our **syllabus/course schedule** in Canvas modules for **due dates** and **associated readings**.

Write an **essay** (minimum of **five pages** in length with at least **five sources** cited in proper MLA format) in which you **(1)** discuss generally, even philosophically, some of the issues and challenges facing teenagers in America, *drawing from and integrating quotations from our* ***assigned readings*** *in this unit.* Then **(2)** identify and describe more concretely and in detail specific aspects of your own neighborhood or community that are not well-adapted to the needs or desires of teenagers. If you like, you may include photographs or drawings to illustrate aspects of your built environment that do or do not work well for teenagers. (Space taken by photographs would not count towards final page count / word count.) And finally **(3)** propose a creative solution—no matter how ambitious or unconventional—that would, in your view, better serve the needs or desires of teenagers. This is an opportunity to analyze and describe in detail the shortcomings of your own environment (using both *primary* and *secondary research*) and to use your imagination to reshape that environment so as to improve the quality of life for teenagers (and maybe everyone else in the process).

It might be helpful to your reader to divide your essay into ***three parts*** using subheadings. The sources you cite in your paper (books, articles, studies, etc.) should come, in part, from our ***assigned readings*** but also may come from ***other outside sources*** of your own choosing that better support your own particular purposes.

\*Of course, to implement your proposed solutions in the real world might be difficult logistically and involve a lot of money, changes to infrastructure, etc. Do not worry about such things for this assignment. This is not a course in urban planning or public policy. This is an English course, so do your best to describe problems and solutions with words and imagination. *If we can’t see it, we can’t be it.*