

YOUR WORLD PROJECT

100 points

Explanation

Much of what makes Geography exciting and relevant is the fact that the 'field' surrounds us: our bodies, homes, neighborhoods, cities, States, countries, and even the virtual world, each form spaces, places and landscapes that we read, analyze and shape. This assignment gives you the opportunity to investigate the places and spaces that make up your world. In so doing you will continue to apply the spatial perspective, ask Geographic questions and incorporate other things you've learned.

Important Considerations

PLAN:

This assignment CANNOT be completed at the last minute. If you procrastinate, you will be unduly stressed and your work quality will be affected.

SHOW YOUR THINKING WORK There are NO right or wrong answers. I am looking for your effort at observation, showing what you have learned, and critical thinking. If some of your answers are that you did not see, then explain what you could have seen or attempt to explain the absence.

Overview

Activities:

You will be completing two activities total for this project. Activities are divided into two categories (see next page) and you must select one activity from each of the two categories.

The two categories are:

1. **Critical Media:** in this category, you will select some media (article, audio or video) that portrays a Geographic or current event issue, and you will critically analyze that media by discussing terms and concepts from the course.
2. **Get Virtual:** in this category, you will explore the virtual world and contemplate the effects of globalization on how you access virtual worlds, what of those worlds you do or do not see, and what experiences those places have with globalization processes.

For each activity, you will select your own experience (media and virtual world) and then complete a written response to the category-specific prompt (see next page).

Activity Directions

ACTIVITY OPTIONS

Select **one** activity option from each of the following categories.

Read the related prompt **before** you start.

You can find more specific suggested activities on the last page if you're having trouble with this list.

“GET CRITICAL”

Select a Geography-related article that is interesting to you (it must be over a full page when print previewed).

Comparing perspectives: find a Geography- related issue and find two different (cultural, political or economic) perspectives on that issue.

Read the first chapter of a non-fiction, Geography-related book.

Watch a documentary related to physical or human geography.

“GET VIRTUAL”

Virtual Landscape Collage: pick a place you are unfamiliar with; find 6 online images, carefully reference the source and write detailed captions.

Review an online exhibit related to physical or human geography.

Virtual Field Trip: find a virtual field trip for location(s) you've never been to before.

Cultural Products Collage: pick a country you are unfamiliar with; find examples of cultural artifacts, traditional or modern, multimedia or photos (music, art, pottery, dance, clothing, language, literature/poetry, food, customs, etc.)

PROMPTS

Respond to all parts of prompt (numbers); each part in its own complete paragraph. You will have three paragraphs for each activity response.

Get Critical Prompts:

1. Provide an in your own words summary of the important points.
2. What has to do with Geography? Include terms from class, with in your own words explanations.
3. For the last paragraph, choose from...
 - a. What were your reactions to what you've read/watched? Describe and detail at least two reactions/thoughts.

- b. What consequences can you identify or future predictions can you make?
Describe and detail at least two.

Get Virtual Prompts:

1. Briefly introduce the activity: what did you do? Where did it virtually take you? Why did you select it?
2. What does it have to do with Geography? What could you connect to our class? What spatial perspective questions did you have? Were you able to find answers?
3. Reflect on our early discussions of globalization and global communications technology. What do you think of the experience of connecting to the world virtually? Beneficial or not? What about the places you visited, are they accurately represented? Do they get the same access to your world?

In your responses, you are expected to think critically.

You are expected to know what that means, so review these sources [What is Critical Thinking?](#) and [Critical Thinking: Where to Begin](#).

After you've completed all your activities, then you're ready to move on.

Guidelines: Formatting and Requirements

Formatting and organization

- All written portions should be typed, double-spaced, 12-point font.
- Use complete sentences and paragraphs.
- Proper citations used. Source, Author, Date and URL.
- No quotations, only in your own words.

Submission requirements

- Hard copy of each activity response.
- Double-sided preferred, stapled.
- Name in top-left.

Point Breakdown

“Critical Media” Activity and Response	= 40 points
“Get Virtual” Activity and Response	= 40 points
Guidelines	= 20 points

Total = 100 points

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY EXAMPLES

These suggested activities are not the only options available to you. Use course topics, concepts and terms as inspiration on your quest to find your own activities and sources. If you find something awesome, share on Canvas!

This list of activities is not a replacement for the project directions. Make sure you carefully read those directions and before you set out on any of these activities. Recall from the directions that you are required to select one activity from each of the following categories.

1 "Get Critical" Activity + 1 "Get Virtual" Activity = 2 Required Project Activities Total

Get Critical Activities:

Select a **Geography-related article** that is interesting to you (it must be over a full page when print previewed).

- An interactive is a new format for communicating multi-media news, check out these as alternatives to just black-and-white text articles (make sure you read, watch, listen and view *everything*):
 - [Council on Foreign Relations topic interactives](#) (includes a couple of interesting topics)
 - [Our Walled World](#) by The Guardian (interactive covers walls all over the world)
 - [Guardian Interactive Guides](#) (more from the Guardian covering a wide breadth of topics; remember focus on Geography-related topics)
 - [New York Times list of 2013 Interactive Stories](#)
 - [Borderland: Dispatches from the U.S.-Mexico Boundary](#) NPR (audio, articles and slideshows)

Comparing perspectives: find a Geography-related issue and find two different (cultural, political or economic) perspectives on that issue.

- Economist Debates: economist.com/debate

- New York Times *Room for Debate*:
<http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate>
- Procon.org
- Debate.org

Read the **first chapter of a non-fiction, Geography-related book.**

- Go to Amazon or Google Books and search for “Geography.” You should be able to read the first chapter of the book for free!
- Go to the library and look up Geography books.

Watch a **documentary** related to physical or human geography.

- [Journeyman Documentaries](#) (most are paid rentals and shorts are free).
- [CosmoLearning Geography Documentaries](#) (links to other sites, but most I clicked on were free).
- [SnagFilms](#) or [Culture Unplugged](#) (are mostly free players, but some are paid).
- [Documentary Educational Resources \(DER\)](#) provides a great list of films by place, but you’ll probably want to do a YouTube search for the title to see if you can get a free version.

Get Virtual Activities:

Virtual Landscape Collage:

Pick a landscape from a place you are unfamiliar, find images online, *Carefully reference the source* and describe in captions.

Make sure you are selecting images for both physical and human geographies. Aim for at least 6 photos (3 physical landscapes and 3 human landscapes).

Review an **online exhibit or virtual field trip** related to physical or human geography.

- [*Ten of the Best Virtual Field Trips*](#)
- [Orange Public Library and History Center](#) Digital Collection
- [OCThen](#), Orange County Memories: articles and digital exhibits
- [Oakland Museum of California](#)
- [CSUF Desert Studies Center](#): virtual tours and exhibits
- [Geocube](#)
- [Google Cultural Institute](#)
- [Smithsonian Panoramic Virtual Tour; Inside the White House: Interactive Tour](#)
- [Oxford University Museum of Natural History Panoramic Virtual Tour](#)
- [Virtual Museum of Iraq; UAE Interact Virtual Museum](#)
- [The Virtual Museum of Traditional Japanese Arts](#)
- [Virtual Tour of Rio de Janeiro](#)
- [Walk through the Forest \(use in Chrome\)](#)