

Community Research Service Learning
VPA 317S
Spring 2001 Semester

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ASSIGNMENT 1: Personal Narratives

Please be prepared to discuss in the next class the neighborhood(s) where you grew up. Use the "community assets map" and "neighborhood needs map" as a way to examine the environment and its effects on your life, aspirations, and your form(s) of creative expression.

Describe the environment and the Neighbors:

- What were/are the ethnic / cultural characteristics of the neighborhood, age range, and general class status of the residents?
- How did your family fit into this environment?
- How did your family differ from this environment?
- Who were your closest friends? Why?

Institutions:

- What institutions were important to you? Why? (Include any local playgrounds, libraries, hospitals, parks, churches, synagogues, mosques, or schools).
- What institutions, if any, were you forbidden or afraid to enter? Why?

Internal life:

- What abilities did you have that made you feel proud?
- How do you feel you were different from other children in this environment?
- What challenges did you face which set you apart from your friends? How did you deal with these challenges?
- How are these challenges and abilities still present in your life?

Associated readings to use for reference:

- Introduction
- Personal Interpersonal Cross Cultural Training Model
- Guidelines for Improving Communication within a Diverse Group
- Definitions of Terms