

# “Overlapping New Yorks” Essay

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Part of an in-archives exercise at <http://www.teacharchives.org/exercises/collaborative-walking-tour>

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Many of our texts this semester depict how New York can be viewed as an ever-changing global city, with relics from different eras and different communities co-existing or edging each other out.

To observe these overlapping New Yorks, walk for approximately 15 - 20 minutes away from City Tech. On your walk, look for places where you see different New Yorks overlapping in close proximity. Identify one instance in which you observe an overlapping of different New Yorks — such juxtapositions include old and new, residential and commercial, historic and replaceable, natural and man-made, constructed and under-construction, well maintained and in disrepair, celebrated and forgotten, one ethnic group and another, etc. On your walk, record your path, and photograph what you see so you can choose a photograph to include in your assignment. Choose one location and one overlap as the topic for your essay.

In a well-organized essay of approximately 800 - 1100 words, argue what the overlap you have chosen to write about shows or says about your location. To make your argument in your essay:

- Chart your course (tell your process for arriving there so that someone else can get there, too!)
- Describe what you see at your location in detail, and how your photograph frames or captures your juxtaposition—or how it can't capture the juxtaposition
- Compare and contrast the two elements of the juxtaposition, not only in terms of what you see but also what is significant about it
- Explain why have you chosen this subject in particular—what about it is striking to you? What story does it tell you?
- Incorporate two quotations or references to our texts from this semester either to support what you write or to engage their ideas with your subject and your interpretation of it
- Consider what you want to know more about (although your essay should not engage with this research!)

## Due Dates

**10/1:** Location choice, walking process (do not simply use a maps program for directions! Write these directions with landmarks and other pieces of information so others can follow your path) and photograph with description due on blog by the start of class

**10/3:** Choose one quotation from our reading, and write a blog post about how it relates to what you're writing about in your essay

**10/5:** Draft due in Dropbox for peer-to-peer review

**10/8:** Complete peer-to-peer review

**10/10:** Essay due on dropbox.com by the start of class

## Objectives

In writing this essay, you will:

- learn to use the word juxtaposition;
- learn to note similarities and differences between class readings and personal experiences;
- learn to write descriptively about your observations and opinions;
- learn to write comparatively about things you see and about differing viewpoints;
- further develop your ability to quote from and respond to our assigned readings;
- gain expertise in citing quotations parenthetically according to MLA format;
- express your ideas and style with clear, grammatically correct prose.