Urban Explorations

For this assignment you will explore one of Pittsburgh's 90 neighborhoods. Pick a neighborhood you have never been to, know little about, and is distinct from communities you frequent (e.g. distinct in racail demographics, socioeconomic status, geographic location, etc…). The information on CourseWeb can assist you in your selection. You should spend at least two hours in your chosen neighborhood. Bus, walk or drive around the streets to get a general feel for the community's residents, houses, public facilities, infrastructure and private establishments. Spend at least one hour of your time observing people and their interactions. You can make observations at parks, public libraries, coffee shops, places of worship, community meetings, museums, retail stores, laundry mats, grocery stores, community centers, etc…

Throughout your time in the neighborhood, take detail notes of the physical environment and social behavior. Note layout of streets and buildings, building materials, residents' body language as they walk or speak to one another, and your own emotions/body language/comfort. Recollect conversations you hear or have with residents. Take pictures of relevant objects or buildings (avoid taking pictures of people's faces unless you have direct permission).

In a 400-500 word assignment, you will write up your exploration, observations and impressions. Start by providing a descriptive picture of the neighborhood. Then discuss in what ways it did or did not met your expectations. Use 3-5 specific observations, conversations, pictures (with captions), etc… to support your claims about the community. Conclude with any questions you now have about this neighborhood, Pittsburgh or cities more generally.

Rubric

Category	Excellent [0.9-1]	Good [0.8--0.9)	Satisfactory [0.7-0.8)	Poor [0.6-0.7)	Unsuitable [0-0.6)	Points
Description and Claims	Neighborhood is vividly described and claims are articulated	Neighborhood is described and claims are articulated but lack detail	Either neighborhood is not described or claims are not clear	Description and claims are vague and unclear	No neighborhood description nor claims	/1
Examples	Observations are provided, thoroughly explained and connected to claims about neighborhood	Observations are provided and connected to claims about neighborhood but not thoroughly explained	Observations are provided but lack connection to claims	Fewer than three specific observations are used	No specific observations are mentioned	/1
Formatting and Flow	Writing is cohesive and clear and all formatting guidelines are followed	Writing is cohesive and clear, not all formatting guidelines are followed	Writing only partially cohesive but formatting guidelines are followed	Writing partially cohesive, not all formatting guidelines are followed	No formatting guidelines are followed and writing is unclear	/1
Total						/3