

## Place or Event Analysis

**The Assignment:** For your second major essay of English 1001, you will analyze a place or an event. This assignment is tied to your service-learning experience. Students choosing to analyze a place will write about the Battered Women's Shelter. Students choosing to analyze an event will write about the Take Back the Night Event at LSU on Oct. 23.

It will be important for you to record your observations of your service experience. Bring a notebook with you to the shelter or the event. There may be breaks during the day when you can record your observations; if not, write down as many of your observations as you can immediately after your service ends – maybe in your car before you leave the parking lot. **One of the keys to success for this assignment will be having detailed notes** from which to begin composing your essay.

**Analyzing a Place:** Based on your observations and the information provided by the Battered Women's Shelter staff, think about the stated and implied functions of the Shelter. Develop an interpretation about the ways in which the space of the Shelter contributes to or detracts from the staff's goals. Here are some questions to help you get started:

- What are the different components of the Shelter space?
- What function(s) does each component accomplish?
- How do different components of the place contribute to the official purpose(s) of the Shelter?
- What other functions does the Shelter provide beyond its official purpose(s)? To answer this question, you will need to use good critical observation skills – what purposes can you infer based on how the space is arranged or how you see the space being used? These might not be the same as the Shelter staff's stated goals.
- Who uses the space? Does the design of the space or parts of the space reflect its users in any way?
- Are any functions of the Shelter in conflict with each other, and how is that conflict evident in the space? How well does the space deal with/resolve such conflicts? (For example, let's say one purpose of the Shelter is to keep women and children safe. This might be reflected in locked doors and security cameras. If another goal of the Shelter was to provide a home-like, welcoming environment, the locks and cameras might work against this second goal.)
- Based on your observations, what are the top priorities of the place? What functions of the place are given less emphasis?
- What does the space do particularly well? What does the space not do well?

**Analyzing an Event:** Based on your observations and the information provided by the event staff, think about the stated and implied functions of the event. Develop an interpretation about the ways the different components of the event contribute to or detract from its goals. Here are some questions to help you get started:

- What are the parts of the event?
- What function(s) does each part of the event accomplish?
- How do different components of the event contribute to its official purpose(s)?

- What other functions does the event provide beyond its official purpose(s)? To answer this question, you will need to use good critical observation skills – what purposes can you infer based on what you see at the event? These might not be the same as the event staff's stated goals.
- Where is the event? What is significant about this location? What is the relationship between the location of the event and the event's stated or implied purpose(s)?
- How is the event's space arranged? Think about where the different components of the event are arranged. Is there a stage? If so, what is on the stage? What is the first thing event attendees see? What might they miss if they don't look closely? What can you tell about the event's priorities based on how the space is arranged?
- What is the timeline of the event? What happens first, second, third, and so on? What things are happening simultaneously? What is the relationship between the ordering of the components of the event and its purpose(s)?
- What messages is the event communicating? Is there signage? If so, where and what does it say? T-shirts? Banners? Handouts?
- Are there speakers? If so, who are they? What is their relationship to the event's purpose(s)? What do the speakers say? Do they appeal to logos, pathos, ethos?
- Who attends the event? In what ways does the event appeal to a particular audience or audiences?
- Are there any other decorations? Is there any significance to the colors, shapes, images used to mark the event space?
- Are any functions of the event in conflict with each other, and how is that conflict evident? How well does the event deal with/resolve such conflicts?
- Based on your observations, what are the top priorities of the event? What functions of the event are given less emphasis?
- What does the event do particularly well? What does the event not do well?

**Grading Criteria:** I will assess the following elements in your final draft:

1. **Success with Genre:** Does your essay include the important features of a place or event analysis? Do you make an analytical claim? Do you provide sufficient evidence to support your claim? **Remember, this essay is an analysis, not a description.** You must go beyond telling me what you observe to telling me what is significant about your observations.
2. **Organization:** Is your essay logically organized? Do you include an introduction in which you state your main point (your main analytic claim)? Do you have a strong conclusion? Are your paragraphs focused, and do you use transitions and topic sentences effectively?
3. **Use of Primary Research:** Do you effectively incorporate specific examples from your field research to support your analysis? These examples should be specific and detailed enough to provide evidence for the claim(s) you are making.
4. **Writing Style and Mechanics:** Is your writing clear and understandable? Is it concise? Is it well-edited and free from mistakes in spelling, grammar, punctuation, and word usage?

**Length:** 1300-1700 words.

**Deadlines:**

First Draft: Thursday, Oct. 27. Bring two printed copies to class with peer review sheets attached.

Second Draft: Tuesday, Nov. 1. Bring two printed copies to class for peer review.

Final Draft: Tuesday, Nov. 8. Post final draft to Moodle before 12:10 p.m. Bring all other drafts and peer review sheets to class.