



Cultural Landscape Summer Project

Investigating Baton Rouge or Your Neighborhood

Big Question: How does your neighborhood's cultural landscape reflect SPEEDS factors?

What You Will Do

1. Choose a Location

- A neighborhood in Baton Rouge **OR** your own neighborhood in a different city
- Examples:
 - Street or block
 - Park
 - Shopping area
 - Neighborhood/community

2. Identify What You Notice

- Types of housing (new vs old, large vs small)
- Businesses (local vs chain, types of stores)
- Signs of wealth or poverty
- Cultural features (churches, murals, language on signs)
- Land use (residential, commercial, industrial)

3. Explain What It Means

Answer in simple terms:

- What patterns do you see?
- Who lives or works here?
- What does this tell you about:
 - Culture
 - Income/wealth
 - History

4. Make a Claim (Your Main Idea)

Write 1–2 sentences:

- What does this place reveal about the community?

Photo Requirements (IMPORTANT)

- Include **at least 4 photos**
- Photos must be from:
 - **Baton Rouge OR your own neighborhood**

Your photos should show:

- A building or housing type
- A business or commercial area
- A cultural feature (church, mural, sign, etc.)
- Evidence of inequality or change

For EACH photo, include:

AP Human Geography/World Geography Summer Project 2026

- 1–2 sentence caption explaining:
 - What is shown
 - Why it matters
 - How it connects to your claim

Map Requirement

- Include a **photo of a hand-drawn map** of your area. Be creative! Don't worry about it being "wrong."
- Your map should include:
 - Street names (if possible)
 - Key locations (homes, businesses, parks, etc.)
 - Labels showing different land uses (residential, commercial, etc.)

Map Caption:

- 2–3 sentences explaining:
 - What your map shows
 - Important patterns you notice

Final Product Options

Choose ONE:

- One-pager (poster style)
- Google Slides (5–7 slides)
- Photo essay

Terms:

SPEEDS Analysis

S – Social

Definition: How people live, interact, and use space

Examples:

- Parks where people gather
- Schools and community centers
- Sidewalks, walkability, public spaces

P – Political

Definition: Government decisions and rules that shape places

Examples:

- Zoning (where businesses vs. homes are allowed)
- Road construction or public projects
- Presence of police stations, fire stations

E – Economic

Definition: Money, jobs, and levels of wealth

Examples:

- Expensive homes vs. run-down houses
- Types of businesses (luxury stores vs. dollar stores)
- New development vs. abandoned buildings

E – Environmental

Definition: Natural features and human impact on the environment

Examples:

- Parks, trees, lakes
- Pollution, litter, flooding areas
- Drainage systems or green spaces

D – Demographic

Definition: Characteristics of the population

Examples:

- Age groups (families, elderly)
- Cultural groups (languages on signs, types of restaurants)
- Population density (crowded vs. spread out)

S – Spatial

Definition: How things are arranged and organized in space

Examples:

- Distance between homes and stores
- Street layout (grid vs. irregular)
- Clustering of businesses or neighborhoods

Cultural Landscape

Definition:

The visible features of a place that show how people have shaped and used the land.

Simple Explanation:

What you can **see** in a place that tells you about the people who live there.

Examples:

- Types of houses (modern, historic, large, small)
- Murals or street art
- Places of worship (churches, mosques, temples)
- Types of businesses (local vs. chain stores)
- Road patterns and layout

Safety & Fieldwork Guidelines

- Do **not** visit your neighborhood site alone. Go with a trusted adult, parent, or older sibling.
- Do **not** take photos from a moving car.
- This is a **walking fieldwork assignment** — you are expected to safely explore the area on foot.
- Do **not** visit the area at night.
- If you want to take photos inside a place (such as a house of worship or business), you must **ask for permission first**.
- Do **not** take pictures of people without their permission.

Questions or concerns?

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