

Brainstorming Ways to Leverage Location in Learning

Learning on Location invites staff, administrators, and teachers to leverage locations on or near campus as a way of enhancing student learning through experiential and critical engagement with places. The series of questions and activities below are intended to guide readers through the process of brainstorming possible locations for writing, walking, and/or engaging the civic by first imagining the local, public communities which we are already part of and those that are on or near campus.

Part I:

Use a sticky pad of notes or an online digital notepad or whiteboard to make notes in response to the following questions. If using sticky notes, use separate locations, places, or spaces as one on each note.

- What locations, places, or spaces come to mind when you think of the local, public communities of which you are a part?
- What locations, places, or spaces come to mind when you think of the communities within and around your university or college campus?
- What locations, places, or spaces come to mind when you think of the local, public communities with which students engage beyond the university?

Part II:

Use the table below to place your sticky notes (or hand-write) with locations, places, or spaces in one of three columns:

- Locations You Already Have Established Connections to Leverage for Learning
- Locations You are Interested in Exploring to Possibly Leverage for Learning
- Locations You are Aware of but Unsure Whether Leveraging them for Learning Would Work

Part III:

After placing your locations on the table, consider and discuss with others (or reflect in writing on your own):

- *where* you could locate student learning and engagement;
- *how* you might leverage your own or your students' personal interests and ties to the community in order to deepen and locate learning in meaningful places;
- *how* might location-based learning serve the goals and outcomes of your course or program;
- *which* of the learning on location practices—writing, walking, and/or engaging the civic—would work well within those locations and for the purposes of your course, program, or initiative.
- *what* challenges you anticipate with location(s) listed in the far-right column that you are unsure about.

Place Your Location Brainstorming Notes in the Most Fitting Column

Locations You Already Have Established Connections to Leverage for Learning	Locations You are Interested in Exploring to Possibly Leverage for Learning	Locations You are Aware of but Unsure Whether Leveraging them for Learning Would Work