

WRT 105: Composing Your Public Space Analysis

“But whatever the origins of any public space (planned, appropriate, accidental), its status as ‘public’ is created and maintained through the ongoing opposition of visions that have been held, on the one hand, by those who seek order and control and, on the other, by those who seek places for oppositional political activity and unmediated interaction.” (Mitchell).

- **What is your thesis?** Remember that the assignment sheet asks you to “close read” a public space, to determine whose vision dominates that space, and what uses, meanings, and implications this might have for “specific geographical locations.”

Now go back to the various “noticings” about your public space, and look for the most significant details, patterns, binaries, and anomalies. You might also draw on some of the other observations you made about your public space (such as divisions between employees and employers, whether the area feels safe, etc.) If you aren't seeing anything that speaks to your current thesis claim, you may want to rethink the claim.

OBSERVATIONS/DATA (Select the most significant details, patterns, binaries or anomalies in the image. Cluster them in like groups.)	IMPLICATIONS/QUESTIONS (An implication is something suggested by the materials itself. For this step, try to locate a few implications for each detail.)	CONCLUSIONS (A developed interpretation of the significance of the observations and implications you noted earlier.)
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Now the trick is to convert some of your ideas into discursive paragraphs. Drawing on the words and phrases you jotted down in one of the rows above, write a paragraph or paragraphs that reproduce your reasoning for the reader so that s/he can follow how you are getting from your observations to your final conclusions. Take care to make your thinking transparent to the reader. Develop your paragraph/s below:

Now consider how this paragraph(s) fits into your thesis claim. Now consider how this paragraph follows from your thesis claim. Does your analysis of this particular aspect of your chosen space support your claim about that space as a whole? Does it lead you to refine, alter, or evolve your thesis in a new way? Working in this mode will help you clarify your larger ideas about the image, so expect to “play” with your thesis as you continue to draft. Make sure, too, that you develop meaningful transitions to help the reader follow your train of thought from paragraph to paragraph, detail to detail, etc. Don’t rely on simple transitional words and phrases (e.g. *then, next, secondly*) to reveal your logic to the reader in moments of major shifts; often a full sentence that shows how you see point A relating to point B is necessary. See page 166 in *Writing Analytically* for more explanation of how to use transitions in your writing.