

Personal Archive Prompt: Map

This prompt asks you to identify, create, or modify a **map** to include in your PA. This can be an already-created map that you source from the internet or an atlas that you somehow modify to indicate your location (and any other important locations in relation to your own). You're also welcome to fully create a map on your own. **Mark for yourself (and your viewer) where you are (physically, geographically) at this moment in time.**

[Be sure to scan/take a photograph of the map you create to include as the item in your papers.]

Why a map?

Map making (cartography) can communicate so many more ideas than just location. Maps can create and perpetuate structures of power, centralize some locations and their inhabitants and marginalize others. Important locations or landmarks can be entirely missing from maps.

With this in mind, think carefully about what is communicated in the map you create/modify:

- What is the center of the map? Does this imply that this space/location is of central importance?
- How is the map oriented? Are there cardinal directions or some other key to indicate relative directions?
- Does the map contain borders? Why? What do they delineate?
- How is the map meant to be used:
 - Is the map meant to assist the viewer in navigation?
 - Is the map meant to communicate some other idea? (where to live, not live, not travel?)
 - Some other purpose?
- What locations or landmarks are indicated on the map? Why are they included?
- Who made the map? How does this influence the map's meaning?

The answers to these questions should help you compose the description of the item.

After you create/identify your image, follow the directions under the heading [How to Complete Personal Archive Prompts] in the document [Introduction for Students: The Personal Archive Assignment].

Example from the Archives

***Instructor's Choice:** insert an example from an institutionally affiliated archive or archive of your choice. Alternately, use the example below.*

[Milwaukee County, Wisconsin 1938](#)

Full Title: Map of Milwaukee County, Wisconsin : residential security map / compiled from official records and drawn by Maurice Kranyecz ; published and sold by David White Co., Inc. ;



prepared by Division of Research and Statistics with the co-operation of the Appraisal Department Home Owners' Loan Corporation.

What is not evident about this map, aside from brief mention in the title, is what this map was used for -- and how using this map created and maintains (even until this day) a segregated Milwaukee.

Take just a few moments to read and listen to learn more about **Milwaukee's infamous Redlining Map**: ["How Did Metro Milwaukee Become So Segregated?" from WUWM](#) (text and audio)

