

# Mental Map Activity

Your goal is to get some sense of what is where in your head and about where you live...

How do you see the world in your mind?  
How do you envision where it is that you work, study, play and shop? How does your mind's eye "see" these places to be?



On a piece of paper no smaller than an 8 ½ x 11 piece of plain white paper, please draw your mental map of the area of the Triangle in which you live, work, study, play and shop. Please make sure you include the **Triangle Town Center, your home and RHS** in your map. Show as much detail as you can, and remember to make the map accurate in terms of what is **important to you**, such as the places you eat, work, walk, recreate, friends' houses, etc. Leave off things that are not important. Finally, make sure you include your own made-up symbols and associated legend for **Landmarks (prominent points of interest), Pathways (streets, routes to...), Nodes (meeting places, centers where streets or pathways cross), Edges (obvious breaks or boundaries between areas)**.

**\*\*Do NOT look at a road map/google maps. It is not graded on professional accuracy. Just draw what you know in your head.\*\***

When your map is complete, please type the answer to the following questions on a separate piece of paper:

1. What do you personally consider to be the most important features you drew on your map? Why? How do these features/places shape your "sense of place?"
2. Briefly infer as to why certain businesses or houses are located where they are on your map?
3. Briefly discuss how you think people have influenced the physical and/or cultural environment in a particular area noted on your map?
4. How long have you lived in the Triangle area? How has this affected your mental map?
5. Do you have a car, a bicycle? Do you walk everywhere? Has this affected your mental map?