

## **URB 210: Cities**

### **Chicago Neighborhood Report & Presentation**

The history of Chicago is the history of its communities and neighborhoods, its people, and their institutions. Through focusing on neighborhoods, one can begin to understand the process of change and continuity that characterizes Chicago.

This project requires you to profile a neighborhood within the City of Chicago. Required sections of the profile include: history; physical geography; demographics, economic/social conditions; and future. Students are encouraged to add additional sections that are unique and appropriate to the neighborhood studied. I am especially interested in knowing if you would like to live in the profiled neighborhood – why or why not?

Your profile should be 8-10 pages long (2000-2500 words). You should liberally supplement the text with images, diagrams, and maps where appropriate, but be sure to follow the suggested word count. Use an appendix if necessary.

**Research:** You are expected to use a variety of resources for your research, including field trips, books, newspaper articles, census data, personal interviews, and web sites.

**Citing Sources:** You are required to cite your sources. You will find an excellent overview of citing sources at: <http://library.duke.edu/research/citing>

**Oral Presentation:** Each student will give a 10-minute oral presentation to the class about their neighborhood. Students are encouraged to use visual aids (PowerPoint) in their presentation. In addition to providing an overview of the neighborhood, students should detail in their presentation, the specific challenges facing the neighborhood.

### **REQUIRED SECTIONS**

**History:** Provide a brief history of the neighborhood. When was the neighborhood incorporated into the city? Which ethnic groups have lived in the neighborhood? What changes have taken place within the neighborhood? Is it a gentrifying neighborhood?

**Physical Geography:** Provide a description of the physical layout of the neighborhood, including its boundaries, terrain, parks, housing, and other prominent physical features. Where are its commercial areas concentrated? What type(s) of housing is predominant in the neighborhood: single family homes, multi-family units, townhouses, high rises, or a mixture? Describe the types of housing. Are the yards and buildings maintained? What type of transportation is available to residents of the neighborhood: subways, buses,

metra, freeways? What type of industry is in the neighborhood, if any? What educational institutions and hospitals are there?

For this portion of the assignment, ***you are required visit the neighborhood***, make notes and take photographs of its physical features and layout. ***BE SURE TO INCLUDE A PICTURE OF YOURSELF IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!***

**Demographics:** In as much detail as possible (using U.S. Census data), describe the characteristics of the neighborhood’s population. What is the average age of people in the neighborhood, compared with people in the city as a whole? What is the average educational level? What are the largest ethnic groups in the neighborhood? How much has the neighborhood grown in population in recent years, especially compared to neighboring communities?

**Economic/Social Characteristics:** What is the average income in the neighborhood? What percentage of the population receives income support? What type of work do most people in the neighborhood do? What is the unemployment rate? What is the crime rate? How do these compare with other neighborhoods in the area or the city as a whole? What is the average sale price for a home in the area? What is the average monthly rent in this neighborhood? What percentage of people own their own home? How much have homes appreciated or depreciated in recent years? Is there a local Chamber of Commerce? Why have businesses decided to locate in this neighborhood? What types of businesses are located in the neighborhood? What types of entertainment are provided? What types of restaurants are found in the neighborhood?

**Future:** Based on your research and observations, what is the future of this neighborhood? What are the major challenges, problems, strengths and weaknesses?

### NEIGHBORHOODS APPROVED FOR PROFILES

From the list of neighborhoods below, students should select and rank their top 3 preferred neighborhoods. A map of Chicago neighborhoods is posted on blackboard. Students wishing to investigate a neighborhood not listed must see the course instructor for approval.

Albany Park	Edgebrook	Lakeview	Portage Park
Andersonville	Edgewater	Lincoln Park	Ravenswood
Beverly	Edison Park	Lincoln Square	Rogers Park
Bridgeport	Hyde Park	Logan Square	University Village/Little Italy
Bronzeville	Humbolt Park	Mount Greenwood	Uptown
Bucktown	Irving Park	Norwood Park	Wicker Park

Chinatown

Jefferson Park

Pilsen

**Websites to get you started (see Blackboard and Library course site for additional resources):**

The Encyclopedia of Chicago

<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org>

Newberry Library

<http://www.newberry.org/genealogy/neighborhoods.html>

UIC: Great Cities

<https://greatcities.uic.edu>

Chicago Neighborhoods

<http://www.choosechicago.com/neighborhoods-and-communities/>

<http://chicago.curbed.com/>

<http://www.chicagoneighborhoods.cc/>

<http://www.chicagotraveler.com/neighborhoods/neighborhood-overview-map.htm>

<http://www.chicagoneighborhoodtours.com/map/index.html>

<http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/doi/provdrs/gis.html>

[http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community\\_facts.xhtml](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml)

[http://www.ilpovertyreport.org/sites/default/files/uploads/Chicago\\_Neighborhood\\_Indicators\\_00-11\\_130109.pdf](http://www.ilpovertyreport.org/sites/default/files/uploads/Chicago_Neighborhood_Indicators_00-11_130109.pdf)

Chicago Police: Clear Map

<http://gis.chicagopolice.org>