

Project 2
Campus Archaeology
Due April 24th

Project Two requires you to do some "backyard archaeology" in the tradition of the Garbage Project. Recall Article 18, "Yes, Wonderful Things" in your text. You will hone your archaeological skills by looking at the world around you as an archaeologist. You will also get the chance to bask in the sunshine with fellow collaborators while observing and interpreting your environment. Groups of three to six researchers will answer an archaeological question using Bloomington as your study area.

To successfully complete Project 2 you will need to:

a) Come up with a research project.

Here are some examples. Feel free to use these or any that you come up with independently. Be creative. Your research project should compare two distributions of artifacts located somewhere in Bloomington.

- Do people smoke more often in doorways than in open spaces on the Indiana University Campus? Compare the distribution of cigarette butts in doorways and open areas to test this hypothesis.
- Is there a difference in the amount or distribution of litter in comparable areas off-campus and on-campus? Compare the distribution of litter from off-campus and on-campus housing.
- Do people living in fraternity houses drink more than people living off-campus? Compare the distribution of beer cans from fraternity houses and off-campus housing.
- Do people smoke more at off-campus bus stops or on-campus bus stops? Compare bus stops on-campus and off-campus to test this.

Notice that these questions require you to come up with a **research hypothesis**. This hypothesis will be the problem you are seeking to clarify with your research.

b) Sample three "sites" in each area for a total of six sites.

You can't observe the whole campus to answer your question. Neither can archaeologists excavate the whole continent of Europe in their search for answers about Neanderthal behavior. You will need to **sample**. To sample these "sites", you should choose three sites in each area. Mark a 5x5 meter square and construct a grid. Use graph paper to diagram the artifacts you find within your square. Do not actually excavate your site!!! Don't dig up our lovely campus. The distributions you will be observing will be surface scatters. Diagramming the artifacts within your square will require you make a map and this map will be turned in within your site report. Your map must be an accurate representation of the scatter of artifacts you will interpret. Look to Mary Leakey's map of FLK Zinj for an example of a detailed and accurate map. Do this for each of your six sites. Since your research question involves the comparison of two types of distributions, you should have three sites for each of the two areas you are investigating. Remember to consider environment of deposition. Don't compare apples and oranges. For example, if you are testing litter distributions on and off-campus, your environments should be similar, such as Dunn Meadow vs. People's Park. If your hypothesis is that people litter more off-campus and you test it using an off-campus bus stop and the steps in front of the Auditorium your conclusions may be biased. You will also need to relate these sites spatially on a map of Bloomington. You can do this with a map you buy at a gas station or a campus map if all of your sites are located on-campus. You can get maps off the web at sites such as Lycos Maps.

Finally we would like you to speculate on the time it took for your deposit to form. Remember Yellen's work (Article 21 from your text) and try to use a little ethnoarchaeology to help answer this question. If you are looking at cigarette butts for example, you can observe the number you see deposited in an hour and extrapolate that number to fit the number of cigarette butts you find in your site.

c) Compare the distributions. Does your data fit your model? Why or why not? Are there any taphonomic factors which hinder your examinations. For example do janitors regularly clean one of your areas but not the other, etc.

d) Finally, each member of your team will turn in a site report. While we are encouraging you to collaborate on your data, you will be graded on your individual essay. Thus, **each individual will write his or her own paper** and interpret the data. The following information is required in your report.

- **Introduction**
In this section you will state your research hypothesis and how you intend to test it.
- **Methodology**
In this section you will discuss your methodology. What was your sampling procedure? Justify the approach you took. For example did you choose your sites randomly or did you look for places specific to your hypothesis. How did you "excavate" your sites (You only looked at surface scatters). How did you relate your sites to each other and to the broader region you are discussing (Bloomington).
- **Results**
This section will include your site maps and discuss what you found at each of your sites. You will estimate time of deposition and describe the environments of deposition. Taphonomic factors should be included in this section. This section is purely descriptive. What did you find where?
- **Discussion**
With all of your data presented, you can get into interpretation. Was your hypothesis supported by the data? What factors do you consider important in the formation of the sites you surveyed. Did taphonomic factors influence your results? Why?
- **Conclusion**
Review the above sections and results and suggest avenues for future research relating to your topic.

Your site report will be a **4-6 page paper** (not including maps) and will be **due April 24th by 5:00**.

Good luck and enjoy