

# Emerging Visions

High School Educator's Guide

# 1. Illustrative Data

## Challenge:

Create an artwork that responds to collected data— on a theme of personal relevance— revealing how we are changing as a society.

## Driving Questions:

How can the transformation of a place be documented through the artistic interpretation of data?

How does data help us deal with the complexities of life and where does it fall short?

How can we find meaning in data to reflect on the condition of our humanity?

What does the data we generate tell us about ourselves as a society, and who or what is left out of the bigger picture?

## Initiating Activities:

Find two or more images that illustrate the transformation in America within the following themes:

-Industry and Commerce

-Beliefs and Politics

-Standardization of America

Describe the transformation.

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## Further Discussion Questions:

What is the significance of collecting data?

Is there information that data cannot capture?

How do data-driven algorithms warp our perception?

Are we driving the data trends or are we being driven by the data? Consider topics such as viral stories, influence of social media and reality TV, fashion trends, ect.

## Brainstorm and Research Themes:

**Theme Examples:** Environment, Poverty, Life Expectancy, Drug use, Mental Health, Obesity, Income and Equality, Gender Issues, Racial Issues, Immigration, Violence, ect.

**Research** the data that can be found regarding your theme. Data can be found in studies, research, polls, surveys, economic statistics, charts, graphs, ect.

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## Suggested Media:

Printmaking  
Assemblage  
Sculpture  
Video Game Design  
Textiles or Wearable Art  
Stop Motion Animation  
Altered Books/ Handmade Books  
Photography (Analog and Digital)  
Mixed-Media  
Environmental Art  
Graphic Novels  
Collage  
Installation  
Performance Art  
Time-based media  
Film  
Graphic Design

## Artists & Inspiration:

[Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, \*Pulse Series\*](#)  
[Hasan Elahi, \*Tracking Transience\*](#)  
[Nathalie Miebach, \*Sibling Rivalry\*](#)  
[Maya Lin, \*Vietnam Memorial\*](#)  
[Ai Wei Wei/Jacques Herzog/Pierre de Meuron, \*Hansel & Gretel\*](#)  
[Ai Wei Wei, \*TRACE\*](#)  
[Hans Haacke, Shapolsky, et al, \*Manhattan Real Estate Holdings\*](#)  
[Nam June Paik, \*Electronic Superhighway: Continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii\*](#)  
[Chris Jordan, \*Running the Numbers\*](#)  
[Million Dollar Blocks Project, Columbia University Center for Spatial Research](#)

## 2. Evolving Geographies

### Challenge:

Create an artwork that explores the transformation of a place throughout history.

### Driving Questions:

How can the juxtaposition of physical elements of the past and present in a place reveal how we have transformed as a society?

How does the historical significance of a place alter or influence its contemporary context?

How does the transformation of a place reveal how we are evolving as a society?

How can we reinterpret the stories of our past through our present?

### Initiating Activities:

Find some places in your community that reveal physical traces of its past. For example, students may work in groups and explore a space within the school grounds. Use juxtaposition to record the new and the old elements in this space. Write, draw, or photograph elements to show your findings.

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### Further Discussion Questions:

How can you convey an emotion through physical characteristics of a place?

What draws us to a place?

How can point of view, perspectives, scale, and juxtaposition influence how we view a place?

What might this place look like 100 years from now?

### Brainstorm and Research Themes:

Select a place of personal interest and gather information about it through interviews (people who have lived in the community), current and past records such as property records, newspapers, old maps, atlases, photographs etc.

Brainstorm ways in which you can use point of view, perspective, scale and juxtaposition to communicate the evolution of this place.

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Mixed-Media  
Environmental Art  
Graphic Novels  
Collage  
Installation  
Performance Art  
Time-based media  
Film  
Graphic Design

### Artists & Inspiration:

[Njideka Akunyili Crosby's, Portals, Inhabiting multiple spaces.](#)

[William Christenberry, Time and Texture, Photographs of the South](#)

[Julie Mehretu, Black City, Art 21: Politicized Landscapes](#)

[Shepard Fairey, The Black Hills Are Not For Sale](#)