“What’s going on in my neighborhood?” Interview. Choose up to three persons from your local community who would be willing to give you a recorded interview about the state of your neighborhood and community. Try to choose from the following professions: A Real-Estate Agent; A Minister; A Social Worker, A Business Owner; A Police Officer, A Health-Care Professional; A Barber/Hairdresser; A Teacher. In a maximum hour-long slot (if you interview one person, or two 30 min sessions if you interview two people, or three 20 min slots if you interview three people), ask the persons to describe the issues as they relate to their field of expertise that they see as happening in their respective communities. This interview does not prescribe any specific questions that you need to ask. It aims to get a qualitative opinion on socio-economic issues happening in local communities. Focus on both positive and negative trends that these professionals can identify. Prepare a summary of the main talking points that you want to highlight with your submission on the blackboard. Post on the blackboard as an audio or video recording.
Due: July 13/midnight 20 %

Please follow the instructions for this assignment as listed in your class syllabus. You will need to submit only the summary of the findings from your interview. Narrate them in your video to me; there is no need to submit them in writing (only in case you experience technical glitches with the video).

Please focus your conversation and summary on the issues of how the community builds social capital (concepts of thick and thin trust, open and closed space, or spiritual geography. These concepts are discussed in ch. 5 of my book.)

Thick Trust- people trust if they attend church together, have children in the same elementary school, or high school, or were born in the same place.

Thin Trust- invite people to believe that strangers or other ethnicities are safe and not on a mission to harm anybody.

Open space- characterized by freedom, affinity, connections, or mutuality that make people self-organized. It is a grass-roots movements. People have common interests, are passionate about the same causes,

Spiritual geography- does not cover only sacred pilgrimage sites, mountaintops, or medieval squares with gothic cathedrals, but also places such as our communities at large: neighborhoods, commons, homes, or local scenery. These weave our "attitudes, context, and environment and the ways this cluster calls to the spirit or squelches it."

1) Describe the issues as they relate to their field of expertise that they see as happening in their respective communities
2) Get a qualitative opinion on socio-economic issues happening in local communities
3) Focus on both positive and negative trends that these professionals can identify

How long have you worked here?

- Started in 1993. Chambersburg. Chambersburg Area. Undergrad- Ship; Grad.- Widener.

Why pick Carlisle?

- Elementary edu major; minor early childhood; met with advisor; took class for intro.
- Internship- wanted to do school social work; did internship at CYS- interviewed Adams, Franklin, and Cumberland County. Intake intern- over the summer. 1993. Finished August.

What do you enjoy about Carlisle?

Since 1995- commuted for first year. Love Carlisle; community stuff- downtown festivals, first Friday; a sense of community; has changed since arriving;

What are areas/opportunities for growth?

Transportation is a barrier; great opportunities for employment; warehouses, people built them further from the town center; transportation does not meet the needs of the community; housing is a huge need- affordable housing;

N Pitt St. was considered safe after the railroad tracks- when branching out North- lower income and people of color;

What are the top needs the community is facing?

1. Transportation
2. Affordable housing

3. Medical care- dentistry; non-commercial insurance; paperwork is too much;

What resources are lacking or inaccessible?

1. Transportation
2. Affordable
3.

Do the needs/issues of the community impact different populations in different ways?

Lower socioeconomic/lower communities- those who rely on any aide are often the ones that cannot get it; farmers market has opened up to using SNAP benefits;

Project Share;

What do you see as the most active participants in the community?

Feels like there is something for everyone; there is a small subgroup- Downtown Carlisle Association; the borough and then the DCA- small business owners try to do community events; Events for the family- promote the community to come downtown; shopping small; shop local; gearing things for all ages have something that would interest.

What areas do you see as places that serve as hubs for connection?

Community events, Sadler Clinic- it is located downtown; provides opportunities; courthouse is accessible; Hope Station on Pitt St. Stewart Community Center- has different classes; Volleyball leagues, pickle ball leagues; the YMCA is a hub; YWCA; Dickinson College; YMCA does scholarships for families to afford their services.

Who do you perceive to be the decision-making power in the community? (elected leaders, school boards, etc.)

School board-

Commissioners- play a huge role; depends on who the liaison; one of the tensions was the Claremont nursing home sale;

The mayor- has a lot of control

School boards- have an impact on their respective communities; school board at Carlisle is a place of contension at times; depending on the issue depends on

What institutions shape the daily lives of residents?

Religious based organizations- Birth Right- no cost supplies; community cares is tightly associated with the churches within the area; building a new shelter for Cumberland Cares; Safe Harbor- in that location for years; the same program since

United Way- community meetings; complete community needs meeting- good spot to hear about the community's needs; what services are available?

Success by 6 program- County does a fundraiser for the United Way; th

How do people express concerns or seek change?

Always an open forum for the commissioners meeting- always a space for public comment. Elections;

Are there barriers to people engaging in the participation of community life?

Hard to say- unaware of people not being a part of the community; hope that people feel welcome; economics could be participating; try to make things low cost as much as possible. Hopefully

Are there things that you wished Carli?

More walkable- strip mall was more accessible; services are more available to people.

Downtown rent is increasing for businesses;

Former flower shop is becoming a DV shelter; only one DV shelter in Carlisle; rent hotels when folks need it.