

LESSON PLAN

Walking Tour of a Community: A Field Trip to Washington Heights

Unit of Study: Humanities - Cultural Study of a community in New York City

This example focuses on Dominicans in Washington Heights, but can be replicated for similar communities across NYC.

This project focuses on the cultural, economic, and political impact of a Group of people on a community (e.g., the contributions of Dominican immigrants in the community of Washington Heights).

Students	<p><i>Can be adapted for many age groups. Lesson used as a research project at college level, in New York City</i></p> <p>Ex: This example includes student researchers in the Black Studies Across the Americas (BSAA) research program at Borough of Manhattan Community College in Spring 2022.</p>
Skill	<p><u><i>Students will activate the following skills</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>- Document the impact that a group of people has on a community</i><i>-Increase awareness the cultural and political impact that historical figures have had on motivating different generations of people in a community</i><i>-Research new information about Dominican immigrants in Washington Heights</i><i>-Make meaningful connections between Dominican immigrants in Washington Heights and similar immigrant communities.</i> <p>Ex: -The student researchers take pictures and create a zine to document the impact that Dominican immigrants have on the Washington Heights community.</p> <p>-The students gather biographical information about the Dominican historical figures whose names were used to rename many streets, public spaces, and institutions in Washington Heights, and they create a blurb to feature each impactful leader or historical figure.</p>

-Research new information about a community to create an annotated Bibliography of Dominicans in the United States:

<https://library.ccny.cuny.edu/c.php?g=346753&p=8116825>

Bibliography of articles on Blackness in the Dominican community

https://library.ccny.cuny.edu/ld.php?content_id=60951468

-Determine the importance of significant historical figures in motivating younger and older generations to join efforts and further develop leadership in a community.

-Make meaningful connections between Dominicans in Washington Heights (community) and similar immigrant communities.

Some of the streets, public spaces, and institutions renamed after Dominican historical figures:

- **The CUNY Dominican Studies Institute** is housed in The City College of New York (at West 138th Street and Amsterdam Avenue) promotes research about Dominicans and the Dominican Republic, and it possesses a significant holding of scholarly publications and other resources in the field of Dominican studies.
- **Juan Rodríguez Way** is located on Broadway from 159th Street to 218th Street, named after Juan Rodríguez, New York's first known non-native immigrant who arrived in 1613 from Santo Domingo to live on the island of Manhattan. You can read and learn more about him [here](#).
- **Juan Pablo Duarte Foundation** located at 4211 Broadway suite 23-A, New York, NY 10033. The center is open from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday. You can read and learn more about this community center [here](#).
- **Centro Cultural Deportivo Dominicano de Nueva York** is a historical and cultural landmark of the Dominican community in Washington Heights. There is address 2088 Amsterdam Ave, New York, NY 10032. The center opens at noon.
- **Ilka Tanya Payán Park** located on the Greenstreet bounded between 156th and 157th Streets, and Broadway and Morgan Place. This park was named after Dominican Hollywood actress and immigration lawyer Ilka Tanya Payán (1943-1996) one of the first female HIV activists.
- **Alianza Dominicana, Inc. at LaPlaza Beacon IS 143M** located at 515 West 182nd Street, features a series of murals in front of the school walls that pay tribute to

	<p>Dominican music and folklore. The murals are located on West 182nd Street between Audubon Avenue and Amsterdam Avenue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● P.S. 132 Juan Pablo Duarte located at 185 Wadsworth Ave, New York, NY 10033, is one of the oldest schools in Washington Heights that was renamed after Juan Pablo Duarte, one of the founding fathers of the Dominican Republic, in 1986. The first school to be named after a Dominican historical figure in the neighborhood. You can read and learn more about this school here.
Strategy	<p><i>Students will work with the library to explore a curated group of documents representing the community of research.</i></p> <p><i>Students will engage in a collaborative process to create a zine to share with and inform other students.</i></p> <p>In this project students worked with the Dominican Studies Institute/Library at City College to view a curated group of documents representing Blackness in the Dominican Community.</p>
Connection/Hook	<p><i>Students become eager to share their creative zines with others in their schools</i></p> <p><i>Students are excited to explore their own neighborhoods and learn about the community they live in, or attend school in.</i></p> <p>Students in this example are researching Dominican culture with a focus on the Washington Heights neighborhood, a community that they are familiar with and interested in investigating.</p> <p>Students were able to choose their own end of project assessments, students chose to create a digital zine, and some students wanted to create a film documentary about Dominicans in Washington Heights.</p>
Quick Modeling/Demo	<p><i>Students will view example digital zines that have been created for informative purposes:</i></p> <p><i>This is an example of a literary magazine published by Borough of Manhattan Community College:</i> https://openlab.bmcc.cuny.edu/acentos-latinos/</p>
Guided Practice	<p><i>Students will work in small groups focusing on different communities.</i></p>

	<p>This example follows a small group that focused on the Dominican Republic in general and Dominicans in Washington Heights in particular. Students explored other online literary magazines and zines.</p>
<p>Observations During GP</p>	<p><i>Students NEED a timeline with smaller assignments, consider:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Decide which group of people and community/neighborhood they would like to engage with/learn more about.</i> <i>2. Research different landmarks in that community that represent the community.</i> <i>3. Visit landmarks, streets, and community centers/establishments that hold a piece of history.</i> <p>Students were given a schedule of completion. We met on a weekly basis, and students were asked to complete certain aspects for each meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community of focus: Dominican Republic/Washington Heights • Research Dominicans in NYC specifically with a focus on WASHINGTON Heights. Students visit the <u>Dominican Studies Institute</u>. • Decide which landmarks, streets, community centers, schools, and other establishments that hold a piece of Dominican history. Students share their interests, develop a plan, and schedule a field trip. Locations were decided by using this <u>map of Washington Heights</u> • Students take pictures and collect data of the sites in the neighborhood, using visuals, and research • Begin process of creating visual product (students chose to create a zine, but also discussed creating a podcast, or a documentary style video) • Students came together for presentation of their projects
<p>Assessment</p>	<p><i>Students will create a “Zine” either on paper or digitally, to document and describe the places that they visited, and the impact those landmarks have had on the community. Further, the “Zine” will describe the important people that are referenced. Students will work collectively to include information that they each researched as well as the places that they visited.</i></p> <p>Ex: These are the zines that our students created: (See Zine Project)</p>

Possible Follow-Up	<i>Students can do a gallery walk, and explore other groups' zines. Students can do this before final publication and leave comments for feedback on post its or comments on a word document.</i>
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