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September 16, 2022

ECE 410 050W

Mini Ecological study Part 1

This mini Ecological Study took Place on September 16, 2022. I decided to walk around the neighborhood and observe around 5pm because I feel like it gets less crazy during this time. The weather was chilly. It was beginning to feel like fall I would say instead of summer so it was the perfect day to go around the neighborhood and take pictures. The weather was around 67 degrees outside or less because I felt cold when I was walking. I live in the Bronx near yankee stadium and it is also located near the four train. The neighborhood I would say is not the best environment possible because it is more of a low income neighborhood. I live next to on Shakespeare Ave in front of the Sacred heart church . There is always a police car watching to make sure no violence happens because there have been numerous incidents of someone getting shot or stabbed outside which is tragic and not okay. While walking in the neighborhood I saw that less than a block away there was a library that I had decided I wanted to go observe and it was a friday afternoon so I thought it was going to be completely empty. To a pleasant surprise there were a lot of children in the library which is good because a library is good access for the children to learn and get the materials that they need. I'd Say that there were at least twenty people in their minimum, which for a Friday is good because on fridays usually people go back home and start their weekend. I noticed while walking that the sidewalk has cars parked on it which I wouldn't say is the best thing for people or children to walk safely but people rarely move their cars because in this area they tend not to give tickets.

As I continue my walk I see that the children from the catholic school called Sacred heart school are crossing with a cross guard which ensures some safety to the parents. The crossing guard has a stop sign when she crosses and it also helps the children be able to see when they can cross or not. It is a co-ed school that goes from pre-k to eighth grade. This school helps special needs childrens the children who have IEP or a 504 plan are given the accommodation that they need. Each child is given the same opportunity to learn even if they are exceptional it does not define who they are. It is a catholic school so the educators take the measures that they need to make sure the children receive the best education possible. I know this information because my aunt works in the school for many years and I have attended the school . Growing up I had ADHD/ADD therefore I was given a 504 plan and was placed in smaller classrooms. I felt like I could do just as good as the other children did. The educators never let me feel as if I wasn't capable, which not everyone is given that opportunity. There is also a community center that I passed by. It seemed to be where some of the children stayed after school like an after care center of some sorts.

In my neighborhood I did not really see any signs in the neighborhood that point people with special needs to specific services. However there is a service nearby. Less than a block away from my house there is a building which is a home for disabled people and people with special needs as well. It was adults as well as children. I had passed by it on my walk but did not enter it. The community also has a city Md which is an urgent care two block away on 170th street in the Bronx. This provides the people and the children access to fast medical care . The walk wasn't a bad walk. The only thing is even though there are kid friendly things, the people in the neighborhood do not take this seriously to make it a safe environment. On my walk there were a bunch of men gathered smoking and throwing a bbq in front of the building with loud

inappropriate music which is a normal thing in everyday bronx. However the parents in the neighborhood are probably concerned when their children get out of school because there is always a lot going on in the neighborhood. When I was walking I still felt safe because when you are from here the chaos does not seem to bother you anymore. As I was reaching the end of the walk I saw the catholic church called Sacred heart church and on this walk I didn't see anyone come out of the church but on Sundays I know that the community comes together as one and shares each other's faith.

This neighborhood walk showed me more than what I actually knew because I never really looked in depth about my surrounding neighborhood. I saw that there were signs like slow down school zone in front of the elementary school. Around the neighborhood there are also two other public schools which provide education to children who may not have the funds to get into a catholic school. Overall I feel as if there is a good amount of services for children but there is always room for improvement. The services and places are not the issue, it's the people around who do not know how to conduct themselves. I can not say I feel the safest personally in this neighborhood because once I was walking and this man robbed my bag. However since then the community has made more safety measures to ensure that the people and children are safe. In the neighborhood I see they are building more buildings making better accommodations and living spaces for the people. Hopefully one day this neighborhood can overcome the obstacles it faces. I'd still say there is a difference for example in a higher income community versus a low income community. Us as educators have to be the change they want to see. Walking and doing this mini ecological study has made me realize even more why I want to become an educator to make the world a better place. To ensure that every child has the same opportunity to learn and strive for greatness regardless if they are in a not so nice neighborhood.

