

### **Mental Map of La Puente/West Covina**

Your goal is to get some sense of “what is where” in your head regarding where you live. On a piece of paper no larger than a poster board and no smaller than an 8.5x11 sheet of plain white paper, draw your mental map of the La Puente/West Covina area. Please make sure you include your home address, and Nogales High School. Show as much detail as possible and make the map accurate in terms of what is important to you (e.g., the places you eat, work, hangout, etc.) and leave off things that are not important. You must also create your own made-up symbols for landmarks (prominent points of interest), Pathways (streets, routes to ...) Districts (downtown, etc.), and Nodes (meeting places, centers where the streets or pathways cross). I don’t want a road map, so don’t even look at one! Just draw what you know in your head. When your map is complete, answer the following questions in your composition book under the title “Mental Map of La Puente/West Covina”:

1. Of the features you drew on your map, which do you personally consider to be the most important? Why?
2. Are there blank areas on your map? If so, why? What do you guess are these empty spaces?
3. How long have you lived in the La Puente/West Covina area? How has this affected your mental map?
4. Do you have a car, a bicycle? Has this affected your mental map?
5. Take a look at a street (cartographic) map of La Puente/West Covina area. Google maps is an easy way to do this. When you get there:
  - a. Enter La Puente, CA or West Covina, CA in the search bar at the top
  - b. Zoom in on the map until you get a street map of La Puente or West Covina
6. How does your mental map compare to the street map? Consider differences in detail, distances, directions, and so on.
7. What do the differences between the way you think of the La Puente/West Covina area and the way it actually is on a street (cartographic) map imply?

\*You will be sharing your maps and your findings in class.

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