

## Optional Visual Essay

### PRACTICAL GOAL

You may complete a final visual essay based upon any one of these spatial analysis projects:

1. Urban environmental justice in Chicago
2. Gerrymandering in Louisiana
3. Health care in Vermont

Imagine you are writing for a news outlet that is for a popular, yet nerdy audience. Think *The Conversation*, but with more graphics and fewer words. The aim is to demonstrate how geographic and spatial thinking can help understand and solve practical problems.

In terms of data visualization content, the visual essays should probably contain, at a minimum:

#### Chicago

- Map layers arranged across map layouts of your choosing, but including:
  - open space
  - population / minority areas
  - healthy vegetation
  - surface temperature
  - cooling centers
- Data tables or graphs summarizing environmental conditions by majority region, where environmental conditions include:
  - open space access
  - healthy vegetation
  - surface temperature
  - cooling centers

#### Gerrymandering in Louisiana

- Map layers arranged across map layouts of your choosing, but including:
  - Voting outcomes
  - African American / Black population
  - SB4 Districts
  - SB8 Districts
- Data tables or graphs summarizing SB4 and SB8 districts, including:
  - compactness
  - political representation
  - minority (Black) representation

#### Health care in Vermont

- Map layers arranged across map layouts of your choosing, but including:
  - Hospital locations
  - Areas of difference between central place theory and Dartmouth HSAs
  - Residential locations without 30-minute driving time access to a hospital
  - Geographic context that influences hospital accessibility
- Data tables, graphs, or maps or graphs summarizing Dartmouth HSAs according to:
  - Total residential locations served
  - Residential locations without access within 30 minutes drive

## REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

The same expectations from previous essays apply with regards to:

- Cover page
- Layout
- Captions
- Data sources

Grades will be assigned with a comprehensive review according to these expectations:

- A: Exceptional quality, ready for a portfolio or interview
- A-: Excellent quality, ready for portfolio or interview even though there is some room for minor improvements if time allows
- B+: A minor change to design or content is necessary, but otherwise it is looking great
- B: Two minor changes or a more significant change would be necessary, but it's close enough that one round of revision should be enough.
- B-: The visual essay needs one or more some significant changes that would likely require a second iteration of review and revision.