Geospatial Thinking Activity Instructor Notes

1. Show the first episode of Penn State’s Geospatial Revolution series to the class.
2. Pose the following question to the students:

“Suppose you are traveling to a new city and you want some good Mexican food for dinner. You want a place that has good reviews, is close to your hotel, and is not too expensive. Discuss with one or two of your classmates how you would select a restaurant to try, and how you would navigate to it.”

Allow the students enough time to discuss their ideas, but make sure that you pace the activity to ensure that they can finish it in the time allotted.

1. When the students are done discussing the first scenario, give them the following instruction

“Now repeat this exercise except suppose that there are no cell phones, no Internet and no computers”.

1. Distribute the handout below to each student and instruct them to compose the essay according to the instructions.
2. Instruct each group to summarize their approaches for each scenario to the class.
3. Take some time to summarize the objectives of the activity and to distinguish the differences between geographic features and geographic attributes. See the references and resources section of this activity for links to more information.

**In Class Geospatial Thinking Activity**

Date:

Name:

Partner’s Name(s):

After watching Episode One of Penn State’s Geospatial Revolution series <http://geospatialrevolution.psu.edu/episode1>, write a three-paragraph essay about how your approach to these two situations differs. In your essay answer these questions, writing one paragraph for each question:

1. How do you gather the information you need to select a restaurant in each scenario?
2. How do you navigate to the restaurant in each scenario?
3. In each scenario, list the sources of the information about the restaurant (reviews, distance to your hotel, expensiveness) and the sources of information about the geographic location of the restaurant.