Unit 2: Sense of Place
Student __________________________

Common Task 2: Date assigned: December 12
Date due: December 18

Researching an Important Place

It is the year 2117, and rising water levels are menacing the Maryland cities closest to coastal and river waterline. Ocean City is underwater, and landmarks from Annapolis have been moved to their new permanent location in New Annapolis on the Piedmont Plateau west of Frederick, Maryland. The Maryland state legislature has informed the Bethesda Metro area that it will need to plan for re-location before the end of 2120. Local citizens may select only the most important landmarks to be moved to a new site annexed from West Virginia.

As we explore Unit 2, A Sense of Place, we will examine the importance of setting on the characters we will soon encounter in Mortal Engines by Philip Reeve. The science fiction novel, set in the future, incorporates ideas based on many present conditions. You will be examining historic local landmarks valuable to us today, which will also be treasured places decades from now. For this assignment, you will select a historically significant location, describe its importance in the present day, and consider its value for future generations. What are the reasons we would want this site preserved for our future? After conducting focused research on ONE historic site, you will write a letter explaining why your selected site should be preserved and moved.

You will research an important location.
1) Select a location from the list provided below. **Your location must be from this list.**
2) Research through reading, internet searches, interviews. You must use credible internet sources.
3) Compose a letter to convince local residents or officials IN THE FUTURE to support the location you chose. This letter might be a letter-to-the-editor of a local newspaper, a letter to a local official, or it might be a letter to a foundation or other funding source dedicated to preserving historic spots.
What kind of important location can you choose?

Rockville Railroad Station  

Bethesda Theatre  


Glen Echo Park  

(for this location, you are focusing on one portion of the canal)

Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office  http://www.clarabartonmuseum.org


Charles Sumner School  http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/wash/dc58.htm

Mary Church Terrell House  http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/wash/dc66.htm

As you begin your research, you must find information to answer these four questions:

1. **What is the location?** Provide a vivid description of the site and its surroundings.
2. **Why is the location historically significant?** Describe important events and/or people associated with the site.
3. **How are the location and its history relevant today?** Explain how the location and/or a particular person or event influenced society.
4. **Why should the location be preserved?** Explain the value of maintaining the site for the present and future.
YOUR GRADE:

Here is how you will be assessed for this project:

Choice of location – FILL IN FORM below by Dec. 13 and submit through Google Classroom.

Initial research: Show TWO (2) sources, and notes from one source by Dec. 14

Completed organizer in Google classroom by Dec. 15 at start of class

Final product (letter) due by end of class Monday, December 18. Letter can also be turned in by deadline, Wednesday, December 20, with no penalty.
(NOTE: Your letter should be turned in before you leave for any earlier vacation; this product can be completed outside of class)

Please fill in: the important place I have chosen for my letter is:

_______________________________________________________
(you need to fill this in by Wednesday, December 13)