

# Photosphere

## SUMMARY

Our memories are often tied to particular places. The same is true for learning and meaning making, which can occur in places that come to hold particular emotions or memories. In this activity, participants create a photosphere (360-degree photo) of a meaningful location and answer questions about it so others can “stand in their shoes” and experience the place, too.

## Materials

- Cell phones, tablets, or other mobile devices with data/Wi-Fi enabled  
*Note: Data/Wi-Fi must be enabled for storage and posting.*
- VR viewers (optional)  
*Note: VR viewers allow for viewing through phone-sized mobile devices; tablets are too large.*
- Google Street View or similar app downloaded to each device
- Data/Wi-Fi access with a strong connection to the Internet

## Time for entire activity

Approximately 1 hour

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## GeoConvos Activity

## PURPOSE

### For participants

- Share a meaningful place in a way that others can see and experience it
- Consider the connections between meaningful moments and the places in which the moments occur
- Share places and experiences at a program site with program providers, friends, and family

### For facilitators

- Gain insights into the ways participants experience program sites
- Enable all program participants to closely examine or experience meaningful places at the program site
- Gain insights into what elements of a program capture the attention and interest of participants

## OBJECTIVES

### Participants will:

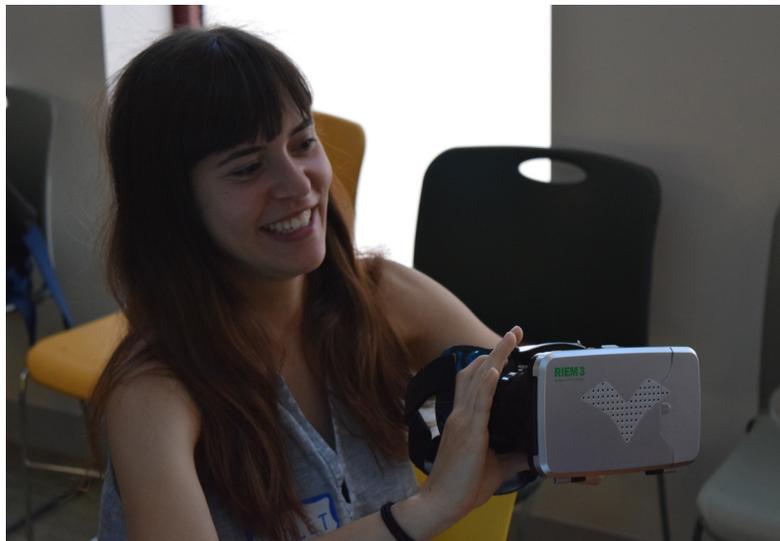
- Reflect on places that are meaningful to them and why those places carry meaning
- Investigate new technologies and methods for producing and sharing images
- Consider connections between places of meaning and their experiences in those places: How do places impact our experiences of learning and meaning making?



## DIRECTIONS

*Before beginning this activity, download a photosphere application (Google Street View or similar) on the devices participants will use.*

1. Divide participants into pairs or small groups (up to 4 people).
2. Ask each participant to identify a meaningful place at or around the program site (or other chosen location). Set appropriate parameters so that everyone has enough time to travel to and photograph their meaningful place.
3. Direct participants to travel to their selected sites and use the photosphere application to take a 360-degree picture of the location.
  - As they capture their photospheres, ask group members to interview one another in their respective spaces while noting or recording each participant's response.
  - Try the following questions:
    - What happened/happens here that makes this space meaningful to you?
    - What is your most memorable moment in this space?
    - What does this place feel like to you?
    - Use three words to describe this space.
4. After all group members have photographed their chosen locations, the group should return to the facilitator.
5. As each group returns its device, publish the photospheres to Google Maps, so they can be viewed publicly. Photospheres can also be stored privately, so they are only available to account holders.
6. After each participant has created, saved, and published a photosphere, mix up the pairs or groups. Ask participants to share their photospheres with the new group, giving viewers a "tour" of the space using the VR viewers or mobile devices. While presenting a photosphere, the creator should respond to the questions listed above (see #3).





## REFLECTION

In **small groups**, ask participants:

1. Describe the experience of creating a photosphere.
2. What was it like to view others' photospheres? How did it feel?
3. Did the experience change your feelings of the places in your or others' photospheres? If so, how? If not, why not?

## WRAP UP

**With the whole group**, ask each group to share at least one takeaway from their conversation.

As a facilitator, follow up on connections to the purpose of and goals for this activity.

For example, highlight:

- Connections between participants' own learning and particular places
- Observations about the way it feels to experience a place in this way
- Increased understanding of others' experiences



The GeoConvos team explores connections between place and identity to develop tools for understanding youth learning pathways. Follow along at [GeoConvos.org](http://GeoConvos.org). Share feedback, questions, and comments at [GeoConvos@gmail.com](mailto:GeoConvos@gmail.com).

*Working draft  
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