Unit 1: Nature and Perspectives  Mental Map Project  Due: Wednesday: 9/5/12

Mental Map of Coconut Creek (or the city you currently live in)

On a piece of paper no larger than a poster board and no smaller than an 8 1/2 x 11 piece of plain white paper, draw your mental map of the Coconut Creek area. Please make sure you include your home/neighborhood and Monarch High School in your map.

Show as much detail as you can, and remember to make the map accurate in terms of what is important to you, such as the places you eat, work, walk, friends’ houses, etc. Leave off things that are not important (remember, this is YOUR mental map, not the actual map of the city).

Finally, make sure you include your own made-up symbols and associated legend for landmarks (prominent points of interest), pathways (streets, routes to...), districts (“downtown”), nodes (meeting places, centers where streets or pathways cross), edges (obvious breaks or boundaries between areas)

Do NOT look at a map to do this assignment. This is YOUR MENTAL MAP.

When your map is complete, please answer all of the following questions on a separate piece of Paper and attach to the back of your map.

1. What do you personally consider to be the most important features you drew on your map? Why? How do these features/places shape your “sense of place”?
2. Briefly infer as to why certain businesses or houses are located where they are located on your map.
3. Briefly discuss how you think people have influenced the physical and/or cultural environment in a particular area noted on your map.
4. How long have you lived in the Coconut Creek area? How has this affected your mental map?
5. Do you have a car, a bicycle? Do you walk everywhere? Do you think your mode of getting around has affected your mental map?

PART II: The 6th and final question. ONLY WHEN YOUR MENTAL MAP IS COMPLETE, YOU MAY LOOK AT A STREET MAP OF THE COCONUT CREEK AREA (Google Maps is a great source) FOR PART II OF THIS ASSIGNMENT.

6. a) How does your mental map compare to the street map? Consider area and the detail, distances, directions, etc.
   b) What do the differences between the way you think of the Coconut Creek area and the way it “actually” is on a street map imply?