

APHG
MENTAL MAPS

Your goal is to get some sense of what is where in your head about where you live...

On a piece of paper no larger than a 8 ½ x 11 piece of paper (no lines), please draw your mental map of the El Paso area. Please make sure you include the **Franklin Mountains, your street name where you live, Downtown El Paso and FHS** 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, hang-out spots, friends' houses, etc. Leave off things that are not important. **I don't want a road map so don't even look at one! Just draw what you know in your head. Remember, everyone will have a DIFFERENT looking mental map because we all have different ways of thinking ☺**

When your map is complete, please answer the following on a separate piece of paper:

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 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 El Paso area? How has this affected your mental map?
5. Do you have a car, a bicycle? Do you walk everywhere? Has this affected your mental map?
6. At this point you can take a look at a street (cartographic) map of the El Paso, TX area. Good sources of on-line city maps are Google Maps or the Map Quest WWW site. If you use Map Quest:
 - 6A. How does your mental map compare to the street map? Consider differences in detail, distances, directions, etc.
 - 6B. What do the differences between the way you think of the El Paso area and the way it "actually" is on a street (cartographic) map imply?