

## 1. Jake Goldzweig

## 2. Communication

## 3. Area of interest and specific focus

For my area of focus, I decided to study the different locations in which people tend to start conversations more often. Some of the specifics I'm focusing on is how different locations, temperatures, and physical aspects can reflect how a person talks to a stranger, triggering others to start talking to one another, and the kind of things they'll say to each other (can vary of how reserved or open they'll be).

## 4. Historical example of slow design

An example of something that incorporates slow design into my project is having a unique event, like the Washington Square pillow fight, to get people to engage with others. By having a large sized event in a public area, people will feel comfortable about bringing friends or groups of people. And since the event is planned, people will be more comfortable about meeting people.

## 5. Interviews report

I've interviewed a total of 8 people for my study. They were interviewed in Central Park, Battery Park, Washington Square Park, Union Square park/subway, or a restaurant. Something to note is how all my interviews were not interviewed in the typical interview format, but more of a friendly manner. Below are the summaries to my interviews.

The first people I interviewed was a couple walking around Battery Park. They were around 30 years of age and lived around the area. When I asked the woman what she thought of the area, she told me she thought it was nice and quiet. She also liked the park in in the warmer temperatures when the park gets more crowded and people become friendlier. When I asked her if she'd made any friends in the park before, she told me she's made many, including one of her good friends she's known for more than five years. When I asked her what she thought of the people who visited the park, she said she liked the wide range of people who visited, but didn't like the mix of locals and tourists since it can be annoying at times.

For my second interview, I went to Union Square. I was buying some apples at the farmers market and I asked a lady which apple stand she thought was best for buying apples. She was very sweet and walked me over to an apple stand. While we were walking, I asked what she

thought of Manhattan. I also asked her how old she was. She told me she was thirty two and was living near Union Square. She said she was originally from Kenya and had been living in New York for about five years. Something she mentioned about New York was how she thought interacting others is super easy: people just don't try. She told me how she thought it's crazy how New Yorkers don't want to communicate with each other even though there are 8 million others in the city. When I asked her what Kenyans are like, she told me how "People are the same everywhere you go," which sounded super true. "New Yorkers don't want to try (communicating), so why not get them to try?"

The third person I met was in Washington Square Park. We were sitting next to each other for fifteen minutes saying anything to each other. We started talking to each other after a dog ran through the fountain, making people laugh. We broke into conversation after she said she missed warm weather and wished the fountain would turn on again. I agreed with her, as we started conversing with each other. She was very nice, she was twenty eight years old. She lived on the Upper East Side and loved coming down to the WSP area as much as she could. She'd told me she'd been living in New York for around six years. When I asked her what she thought about the typical New Yorker, she mentioned how most people keep to themselves compared to where she was from (a smaller, urban city). She said she missed her hometown, but she still admired New York for its diversity and creative individuality. She told me how it's so much harder to communicate with people in the city, and she met friends through work and acquaintances. She said she typically doesn't meet strangers from parks or places. She told me how it was super hard for her, at first, to make friends.

The fourth person I interviewed was in subway. I was new to the subway, so she helped me get to the Union Square station from Canal Street. She told me she was from the Bronx and had lived there for five years, and was originally from Connecticut. I asked her what her opinion was of New Yorkers. While talking about the differences between New Yorkers and LA people for a while, she said New Yorkers are rude, in a rush and very direct. Even though being rude and rushed isn't so great, she liked how people in New York were more honest and direct than people in LA. She liked how people will judge you straight up in NY versus people in LA are the opposite, whereas they will judge you behind your back and back stab you. I agreed a lot with this statement. When I asked her what she thought of dealing with the communication between New Yorkers, she said that they're always in too much of a rush to talk to other people. Like my second interview, she also mentioned how she felt that New Yorkers aren't willing to put the effort in communicating with strangers.

For my fifth interview, I interviewed an elderly woman in Central Park. She was about sixty or seventy years of age (didn't ask her age). She's been living in the city for about 7 years, like

the rest of the people I interviewed. She said she liked living in the city by herself, although she occasionally got lonely. When I asked her, she told me she thought the typical New Yorker is under a lot of stress and should relax and calm down. She told me she thought younger people around my age group are under way too much pressure. When I asked her what her opinion was of communicating with other strangers, she said she didn't have a problem with it. "I'm gonna die anyways, so why not." She did think that a majority of the people living here don't make an effort.

The sixth person I interviewed were some NYU students in Washington Square Park at night. They were all around there early twenties and were eager to answer my questions. They all had interesting backgrounds and came different cities, countries, social class, and race, which I found very interesting. As students, they loved being in the city and they loved their campus. One thing they merely agreed on was the lack of students or people who want to make friends with others.

In my seventh interview, I met a girl at a macaroni take-out restaurant who was from Melbourne, Australia, staying in the East Village for a month. When I asked her what she thought of New York, she told me she loved it. She described it as completely different from any other city and mentioned how she needed a little time to adjust to the pace. But she said she'd been constantly busy for the past two weeks and intends to stay busy for the rest of the trip. When I asked her what her opinion was of New Yorkers, she told me she thought they were like normal people, only a little bit more rushed than people in Melbourne. When I asked her if she came here with anyone, she told me she came here as an intended, solo trip. Another question I asked was if she could imagine living here. She answered yes. When I asked her what she thought about the communicating with other New Yorkers, she said they were easy to talk to. I then asked her if she met any friends here in NY. She said yes, and then exclaimed how the people here are easy to talk to if you're willing to try.

The interview I had was with a couple on the subway going to Union Square. They were from Queens, but were just visiting during the day. At the time, I was new to New York, so I'd originally asked them for suggestions of things to do and what's the hot spot to go to. I also asked them how long they'd been living in New York and their overall opinion of it. They said they liked it and seemed content. They basically they had no complaints about this city or its people, although they did mention it would be nicer if people were friendlier.

## 6. What needs to be observed

For my observation, I need to observe New York locals. Because New York is such a dynamic, unique place, I want to interview people who actually live here and have a good idea of what the people and street life is about. Some of the places I'm going to observe people in is in everyday destinations, such as local parks, subway stations, and outdoor areas. I think the subway is one of the most interesting places to ask people their opinion of social interactions for my study. I think it's important because people in the subway are typically in a certain mindset designed not to talk to anyone and keep to themselves since a percentage of people are in a rush. People in the subway can also be extremely diverse since there are so many different types of people coming from different classes, stories, etc.

#### 7. Main idea you're working on and how it relates to the Slow Movement

The main idea I'm working on that relates to Slow Movement is how much time it takes for people to actually strike a conversation with one another (for example: a woman starting a conversation with a man who sits next to her on the same bench, while they both seem eager to talk to each other.) I'm also focusing on how slower conversation can mean a less rushed or fake conversation between one another. When people step out of their comfort zone and actually take the time to think about what they're saying, they tend to not stumble or say things they don't mean. They also understand more about the other person they're talking to if they both engage in conversation.

#### 8. Precedents

Find out what has already been done in this area. This is a major part of your proposal and includes images and sources. You need to be informed of anything that is related.

In order to have slower conversations between two people, they need to *think* about what they want to say before speaking. And by this, I mean people need to take a second more or so to think of something they want to say instead of just rambling off about something they don't unnecessarily mean.

#### 9. Inspirations

What inspires and/or inspired you? This should include inspirations for the idea itself as well as inspirations that you find that give you guidance in your project. Like the precedents, you should include images and sources.

Something that inspired me to conduct this study on communication was my curiosity of how people meet one another. A lot of people think its weird to randomly go up to a person and introduce themselves and make friends. But a thing people don't realize is how common that is here in New York. When I first came to New York, I wasn't sure where to go to make friends and meet new people, but I've realized that going to common places, like the park, are good ways of meeting new people and making new friends that could possibly turn into long lasting relationships. During welcome week in August, I went to a lot of events to make new friends. But I also wanted to meet people who were not just New School students. So I went many parks with a friend or two and met a whole bunch of people. Even though it may sound weird, making friends with people randomly, it made me realize that anything is possible. Because I did this at the beginning of the year, I've met some of my closest friends. The point I'm making is that meeting new people can be very possible if you really want it, especially in a city like New York.

## 10. Skills

A skill I have that will help me out in this project is my background information in psychology, since I was originally a psych major. I'm also very good at starting conversation with people, which is one thing that will be beneficial for my interviews. Another strategy I thought about doing for my study was creating a quick survey, consisting of 10 questions about communication, and giving it to random strangers in the park to answer.

You will need to use two areas of knowledge, skills, or discipline that you already have for this project. What are the two areas?

## **Deliverable**

Every item must be titled (e.g., Precedents or Main Idea, etc.). Every image must be identified. Be clear and thorough.

Write the proposal in form of a post or page (your choice) on the Learning Portfolio. Send me the link via [canvas](#).

## Openings

card that show a persons mood that people can understand (fictional)

free hugs

“pickup line”