

11.027 City to City

Session 3 Notes

1. Copenhagen in the news:
 - a. Greetings from Denmark
 - i. Activists are using web pages to reach out to the Muslim world
 - b. Stray Dogs in Denmark
 - c. Politicians want to make city a computer hot spot
 - i. Want to take the entire city wireless
 - d. Energy tech's high-power export charge
 - i. Danes leading the world in wind energy
 - e. Hydrogen fueling country's power vision
 - i. Danes looking into hydrogen energy forms
2. Turning Topics into Questions
 - a. Figuring out what you care about within the topic using questions:
 - i. Does?
 - ii. Who?
 - iii. What?
 - iv. When?
 - v. Where?
 - vi. Why?
 - vii. How?
 - b. Major constraint in this class: Boston/Copenhagen. Compare each of the above questions between the two cities.
 - i. Why? And How? Tend to result in the more interesting questions.
 - ii. Does?, What?, Who?, And Where? Result in observations rather than arguments (generally)
 - iii. Examples:
 1. Does Copenhagen embrace bicycling more than Boston?
 - a. Yes/No
 2. Why does Copenhagen spend more on bike paths than Boston?
 - a. How much is spent?
3. "Getting Words on Paper" (In-Class Exercises)
4. Methods
 - a. Before the advent of modern science, anything that could be studied was called science because no methods had been developed to study the kinds of things that we wanted to know about.

- b. In the nineteenth century, the scientific method was developed:
 - i. The Method:
 1. Question
 2. Hypothesis
 3. Experiment
 4. Variables: Independent (X) /Dependent (Y)
 5. Observing
 6. Results
 - ii. It is a very linear process
 - iii. It was a huge breakthrough because it allowed replication of results, and it allowed predictions
 - iv. People started using this method to understand the world around them
- c. In Social Science, this method is problematic
 - i. Does not always give the results we want
 - ii. Requires a controlled environment, but altering the environment and introducing the act of studying alters the behavior of the subject.
 - iii. Richness of data can be lost through the method
 - iv. Without other ways of exploring the questions (interviews, surveys, etc.) you can lose some data.
 1. This is a choice
- d. Quantitative vs. Qualitative Methods
 - i. Next Week: Interview Process
 1. Questions
 2. Process
 3. Interviewee Management
 4. Recording
 5. Frame the interview, but allow the person to talk in their own way as much as possible
 - ii. Library Research
 - iii. Observation of Behavior/Phenomenon (can be either quantitative or qualitative)

Qualitative	Subjective	Case Studies, Interviews, Surveys
Quantitative	Objective	Surveys, Experiments, Statistical Analysis, Census

- 5. Presentation: Boston's Bulfinch Triangle
 - a. "The Bulfinch Triangle: A Microcosm of Boston's Development"
 - i. Presentation of historical research on Boston's Bulfinch Triangle arguing that it embodies all of the major forces impacting Boston's development over time.