

Community Photo Project

[about the project](#) (see below)



This building is my school. The people come to learn English from different countries, languages and different colors. This building brings opportunity. We people want to learn English in this country and bring a scholarship too. This is good for help people who live in Arlington County.

I took this photo because it is very important for me. I learn English in this building and I hope more English in my future. That photo is my school building, the Clarendon Education Center. This is in Arlington County, VA.

Why is this important for me or my community? Because a lot of people come to learn English. It brings opportunity to learn English. Arlington County tries to help the people who live in Arlington and bring other opportunity for grow up.

Carolina
El Salvador

It is Clarendon, just in front of my English school. I took this photo because I love this place who looks like a park. There are trees, flowers, a statue of children and several clean fountains. It looks new. It is clean and beautiful to see.

When I come early to school, sometimes I buy my breakfast just next to this place and I come to sit in this place quiet and peaceful and I read my English book. In my break time with my friend Faical, we always come to this area.

When I finish my English school, maybe after nine months, I will remember my nice English teacher, my classmates and my school. I think I will never lose this picture because it's something like a memory for me.

I think it is a good place for people who live in this community. But an important part of the community is the place where people relax.

Mary
Ethiopia



Crystal City is located at the south of Arlington County. This image shows the intersection of Crystal Drive and 23rd Street. The red light is keeping the car waiting for its turn to 23rd Street. The building to the right is called U.S. Airways Building.

I like Crystal City because there are tall buildings which are covered by glass. Maybe that's the reason it's called Crystal City. Also Crystal City is very important for the community because it's always busy. And now is better than 10 years ago. Now you can see a lot of new restaurants at the left side of this photo.

Also Crystal City is very important to me because I work there at Ruth's Chris Steak House, which is located at the 11th floor of the U.S. Airways Building.

I like Crystal City because it is 5 minutes from Washington D.C. and 5 minutes from Reagan National Airport and 3 minutes to the major highways I-66 and I-395. That's why I like to take this photo. This photo was taken in the evening about 6:30 p.m. That is the good time to walk in Crystal City.

**Artemidez
El Salvador**



In this photo you can see the Clarendon Station entrance, the escalators and people going down into it. Almost every station is subway, like you can appreciate in the photo.

I took this photo because I think the metro is very important for the community. It is a transportation means. Most of the people use it to go to work, schools or even for shopping, sports games, museums and just for fun. It's cheaper and is also accessible for everybody.

For example, I took the picture of Clarendon Station's gateway. Every time I finish school I have to take the metrorail from there to my home. It's very easy, but if you get lost, there's maps and information for every kind of place: metro maps, street maps, bike road maps and also information of places that you can go.

There's elevators for disabled people, seniors, people with bikes and if you don't want to take the escalators.

In my opinion I think this is a very important thing in the community and that's why I chose the metro for the "Community Project" picture. There are many other ways of transportation like buses, taxis, etc. But the Metro is the most popular way for transportation.

Mariluz , Puerto Rico (U.S.)



I took this photo on August 17 in Clarendon. It has different things: trees, flowers, Baja Fresh, a fountain, a statue. What really attracts me is the beautiful fountain. It looks great, especially in the sun's rays. It has clear water. Next to this fountain, we can see also the statue of children playing, who increase the beauty of the place. We go to the school across from the fountain. It's big and has a lot of rooms and good teachers.

Finally, this place is important for me because I feel comfortable and more relaxed in it. It's one of the fun places where I like to spend my time. Every time I look at this picture, I remember the happiest hours I spent every weekend in this beautiful place.

**Faical
Morocco**



Look at this picture. Isn't it nice? I don't know for you or what you think about it but for myself I like it because it is an important place to know the history of America.

Let's talk about it. You see the statue. In the picture they are the heroes of America. Here is a little bit of their history. It was in Iwo Jima. They try to fix the second flag of America because at first a small American flag was raised.

This place is visited by a lot of people every day or tourists. If you see a little girl in the picture, she is the one to visit a place with her parents.

For me, it's important to know what we have in our neighborhood because I love to discover our community and it's important for me. That's why I took this picture.

Before I took this photo, I didn't know we have something like this in Rosslyn, in Arlington. Now I would like to share what I know with you. There are a lot of important places to visit near where you live because this is part of American history. That's why this is an important part of our community of Arlington.

**Hana
Ethiopia**





This photo was taken in Rosslyn location where there are many bus, metro station and many business places and also tall buildings. In this photo you cannot see them, but there are many around this part that is in the photo.

In the photo you can see two buses only and many people wait for them. Many white taxis are on the left side. Two people are talking about something. They are waiting for their customers to leave to work.

In the first taxi you can see somebody inside ready to go. Each taxi has an identification number with a blue letter and says Arlington Blue Top Cab. With any problem that they do, you can find them very quickly.

On the right side you can go to take the metro but you must walk underground to board the metro and go everywhere you want.

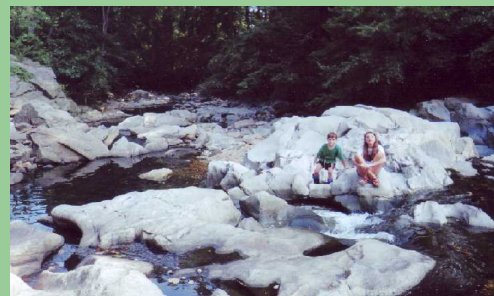
This is very important in Arlington County because it is beautiful and is near to the river and all the buses make transfer to another city. That's why it is important. That is all that I see in the photo.

**Jose
El Salvador**

Arlington is a crowded city. It has many beautiful parks. This picture is one place on the stream called Four Mile Run. It is close to Glen Carlyn Park. In the picture, you can see two children – my son is 5 years old; my daughter is 12 years old. My children like to visit this park. They climb on the rocks. They listen to the water. They throw small stones in the water. They like the splash!

Many trees are around the stream and the rocks. It's not possible to see any houses or apartments. The place is quiet and peaceful. On Saturday or Sunday there are a lot of people walking or biking on the path nearby. On a hot summer day, the stream is a cool place to sit. You put your feet in the water and listen to the birds in the trees.

I like this photo. It shows one of the quiet places in a big crowded city. Most people think Arlington is many stores and restaurants, the Metro, apartments and homes, the Pentagon and National Airport. But an important part of the community is the place where people relax. I like



Four Mile Run, and this place with the rocks,
because it's the hidden part of Arlington.

Phil Cackley, ESL Instructor

About the “Community Project”

For this project, my students took photographs of places in the Arlington community and then wrote a short composition about their photo. The project was based on similar work done in the Washington, D.C. public schools under the Literacy Through Photography program, sponsored by [Turning the Page](#), a community organization.

As a first step, we visited a photo exhibit, “Young Visions of Community,” at the Smithsonian’s Ripley Center. The students looked at some of the photos and writing done by 300 students in eight D.C. elementary schools. After we returned to class, we discussed the subjects of the photos and talked about which compositions were interesting. Then, I gave my students several weeks to take photos either with their personal cameras or with disposable cameras I supplied.

In class, we looked at each other’s photos and students selected one photo to write about. They had 45 minutes to write a first draft. I corrected the drafts and then students wrote a second draft a week later. The stories you see on this web page have been chosen from the 20 or so compositions written by members of the class. The entire project took about 5 weeks.

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Phil Cackley, ESL instructor
Arlington, Virginia
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