

ENG 101 – Composition I
 Dragan

Reading Some Historical Materials on Flushing Meadows and Robert Moses

With the course pack material for today, we get a chance to meet Robert Moses, the famous ‘power broker’ of NYC, who dominated public works projects from bridges, highways, parks and building projects for decades. We will also see the different ‘transformations’ of Flushing Meadow Park in Queens.

Soon we will look at some ‘primary sources’ (unpublished) letters written by the actual person from the La Guardia and Wagner Archives.

Today we will look at Robert Moses’ public side. In “The Saga of Flushing Meadow,” he outlines the changes made to Flushing Meadows starting in the 1930s when it was transformed into the site of the World’s Fair in 1939-1940. This document will let us construct a ‘timeline’ of how this space was used over the years.

How do we balance these sources and get a sense of a controversial historical figure in New York history?

- In groups of 3:

Part I. “The Saga of Flushing Meadow,” by Robert Moses (pp. 43-52 in the Course Pack)

- First, spend 5 -7 minutes re-reading “The Saga of Flushing Meadow” by Robert Moses. Pay attention to the building and other projects on the handout. Are there any buildings or sites that you have seen in person? As a group, try to come up with one ‘personal’ memory of some place that Robert Moses created.

1) Now as a group, construct a list of 3 uses of Flushing Meadow over the years, as well as the approximate date or decade. **We can use this as a team to construct a timeline of Flushing Meadows throughout history.**

2) What kind of character is Robert Moses in his description of the changes of Flushing Meadow. Is he proud? Overconfident? Humble in the face of public service? Or something else? Create a phrase or two that describes his personality within these pages.

(~15 min.)

- **Reporting Out** – We will build a timeline of Flushing Meadows history together. Be ready to report your group’s answers to the class to these two questions.