Many times we use the ease and seamlessness of technology to erase difference. For example, email democratizes communication making the form of every message the same whether it comes from Paris, France or Paris, Texas, the President of the Student Union or the President of the United States. But how do we design curriculum that reflects our individual differences and make use of them?

This Best Practices Session is based on the Junior Research Seminar I teach at New York University in the Global Liberal Studies Program. This course is unique in our program as it is taught from our main campus in New York City for students who are currently studying in Buenos Aires, Paris, Berlin or Shanghai. Each online section has students in different countries and different time zones so most of the material is delivered asynchronously. This session will examine the multimedia assignments I used in order to help students develop an idea of place in their research despite the flattening effect of technology. The purpose of this session is to help participants develop assignments that use place as a central experience for learning.