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Over the last few weeks, MAT 115H has been making a lot of assumptions about Newport's Westside. Since no one in the class actually lives in Newport, these assumptions have been made based off of secondhand information and cliched generalizations about what poverty looks like. In the first two weeks of school, the class was convinced that census tract 505 was a deprived and broken area. This viewpoint changed after we all met at Sis's and saw how pleasant that area actually is. This logic has turned back onto itself as the class finds itself questioning the validity of its conjecture.

As a class, we have identified that there is definitely a wealth of culture in the Westside. This culture manifests itself in the area's rich history and architecture. Monica Remmy herself serves as a testament to the strong communal ties that exist in the area. If people like Monica exist, there must be hope for the Westside. Monica discussed a lot of 'healthy' aspects of Newport. The most striking being her exaltation of Newport's 'walk-ability'.

Monica also identified a lot of components of Newport that are hurting. While Newport is very walkable, it is unfortunately far away from a grocery store. You might be able to walk to work or from lunch to coffee, but you cannot easily transport a week's worth of groceries from Point A to Point B if you happen to be without a car. Monica is in a unique position in the community, and as such, she is able to make unique observations on the health and nutrition of Newport's Westside. It is abundantly clear that the community has a huge need for nutritional education and intervention. It was encouraging to see someone like Monica attempting to tackle that behemoth simply by putting in a community garden. In this way, Newport has "health" in the wealth of caring visionaries and non-profits who are committed to 505's future.

There are a lot of different ways to go about measuring hurt or health. These can be very abstract or scientific. We touched on the Hierarchy of Needs in class and I find that to be a very helpful means of measuring the aspects of hurt in a community. This is a very objective way to find those
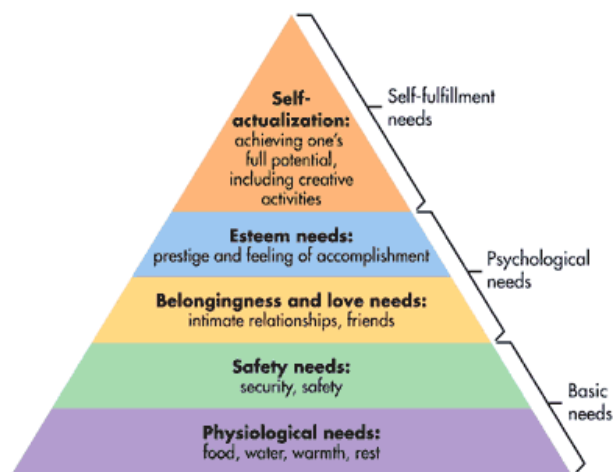
places of need. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs will be a helpful framework to help identify areas of hurt for Newport. In this model, Maslow puts basic biological needs on the bottom of the pyramid; they are the foundation. With this, we can assign certain values to each level of need. Physiological needs would get more weight in Newport's score, safety would get a little less, psychological needs even less, and so on. To determine the score for each category, we can take factors into account such as how far away residents are from fresh food, homeless levels, etc. When you get into the psychological needs, it will be easier to actually measure, say, the number of friends a person has, or whether or not they have a support system. When we get closer to the top of the pyramid, this becomes the crux of our charge as a class. All of the sub categories under self actualization amount to a person's "Hope". At this point, we might be able to assign a score to an area.

To give more of a human quality to the number, we could give an example of what a hope score of a "5" actually looks like. This could be achieved by describing a day in the life of a "5", or this is what it looks/feels like to be a "4".

Over the Rhine will be a very useful area of comparison for Newport's Westside. OTR has gone

through a tremendous renaissance and it is long enough in the making that the successes and failures are easy to discern. It could be very helpful to look at OTR's demographics and zero in on the areas surrounding it, then drawing parallels between those areas and 505.