

1. **Landscape as a clue to culture** ...*It is generally accepted that:*
  - Man-made landscapes provide the evidence of who we are and who we are becoming.
  - "Everyday" regional landscape changes usually reflect larger national culture change.
  - When two areas look more and more alike, then ideas and cultures are converging.
  - Landscape change occurs via diffusion from other places by imitation, contact and communication.
  - "Place Tastes" (fads) exhibit likes and dislikes and promote or prohibit cultural actions.
  - Different cultures embrace different beliefs through their daily behavior.
2. **Landscapes as unity and equality** ...*It is generally accepted that:*
  - All items in human landscapes (popular and traditional) without exception reflect that culture, no matter how seemingly important or not...McDonalds is just as important as a historic/cultural site in Washington, D.C.
  - There is no such thing as a culturally uninteresting landscape.
3. **Landscapes of common things** ...*It is generally accepted that:*
  - Common landscapes are difficult to access; you must be a detective looking for other than normal artifacts (consider certain parts of town, places that are common but unique to the landscape; architecture, colors, activities, use of space, smells, signage, etc.).
  - Written, spoken, formal, informal, advertised, promotional, unconventional, language ...all are important for understanding a "common" landscape.
4. **The historic landscape** ...*It is generally accepted that:*
  - "Doings", "markings" and patterns on both the physical and human landscape (either positive or negative) of past and current events, put things in cultural historical context.
  - Observing changes in technology and communication over time are important for understanding a particular symbolic landscape in historical context.
5. **Landscape location** ...*It is generally accepted that:*
  - It is important to study the cultural landscape within geographic context. Nothing is unrelated to its surroundings, (The "why of where" should be answered).
  - Both the physical (site) and "built human "cultural surroundings (situation) influence the perception, preservation and interpretation of that place.
6. **Landscapes are intimate with their physical environment** ...*It is generally accepted that:*
  - Knowledge of the physical landscape is necessary. The climate, landforms, soils, resources, etc., and their integrative nature with the human landscape is important.
  - Understanding the ecological (natural) landscape first, then the later human modifications/forces that shaped and changed that natural landscape must be noted.
7. **Landscapes can be obscure** ...*It is generally accepted that:*
  - One must probe for depth: What is really going on here? How does it work? Who designed it? Why? When? What is important to these people?
  - Landscapes carry many meanings; it is important to communicate multiple "open- ended" landscape observations.
  - A place/landscape means different things to different people ("insiders and outsiders" points of view may be different).

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<sup>1</sup> **Source:** Lewis, Pierce. 1979. "Axioms for Reading the Landscape." In *The Interpretation of Ordinary Landscapes*, Meinig, D.W. Ed. Oxford University Press.