**Exploration Assignment Photography Genius Loci Mr. Martin**

This photo exploration explores the meaning of “place” in our lives. We develop a sense of place through experience and knowledge of a particular area. A sense of place emerges through learning of the history, geography and geology of an area. Contributing factors to this are the flora and fauna, the legends of this place, a growing sense of the land and its history after living there for a time.

For this assignment, you will be asked to capture the spirit of the place that you live, New Paltz. Where is the place that you escape to? Where is your special part of this town? Where is the place that you go to feel the sun on your face or the rain on your back, the rough and smooth texture of the land, the color of the sky in the morning or the deep hues at sunset? Where is the place of time forgotten? Where is the place that you go that you only know?

**Questions that you should answer about this place:**

What is your name, when and where were you born?

How long has this site been in existence?

What is the purpose of this site?

What kind of people, animals, man-made or natural elements are associated with this site?

How long have you been associated with it?

What are your specific tasks there?

What was it like when you first started?

Why do you stay associated?

What is a typical day like there for you?

Tell about a time that really stands out for you at this place

Are there any traditions or customs celebrated there?

Are there any special objects associated with this place?

Are holidays or other times celebrated there?

What stories get told about this place?

What do you think is important about this place?

Is there anything you would like to add?

What would you do without this place?

Assignment:

Shot one roll of film or 36 digital images, trying to capture the spirit of a place within the town of New Paltz. Search for the visual representation of this place. Find the place that calls to you and try to capture it.