

## WRITING PIECE / Christmas Market Cable Bridge

Narration of an aspect of the sonic event or object that explains something about urban life in Berlin for someone who did not experience it themselves (max. 300 words or ½ page)

*An alleyway in a pedestrian zone of a central Berlin park or square, approximately 10 meters wide, connecting a tram station at the crossroads with one of the park's central points or squares: The Neptun-Brunnen (Fountain of Neptun). It's 4.30 on a Wednesday afternoon in Autumn, 10° C, clear sky, sun about to set. Looming over the scenery (of yellow-leaved trees and bushes): Berlin's TV tower and town hall.*

*In this alley, there's an odd object: A green lorry with a trailer, orange lights blinking, accompanied by three men wearing blue jackets, but no helmets, and some scaffolding – 2 pieces of scaffolding erected on either side of the alley, a third and quite long piece on the ground, parallel to the lorry.*

*Odd, as well: The scene is not closed off. One of the men is using a remote control to operate a crane mounted to the lorry, another man is holding a rope that is tied to the end of the piece of scaffolding on the ground. The men are talking to each other over the engine sound that is competing with the auditive context: The Neptun-Brunnen's waters constantly splashing, traffic noise punctuated by trams and motorcycles. "The important thing is that you keep hold of it!" [„Hauptsache, Du kriegst dit jehalten!“]*

*The scaffolding thing is lifted by the crane and begins to hover over their heads, and soon over mine, as well. "Caution!" ["Vorsichtig mal!"], says the man holding tight to the rope to keep the scaffolding thing in a horizontal position. I'm stepping back and can't understand what they're saying anymore.*

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Final Reflections on Writing in Relation to Other Media (well: a final appreciation of your prompt)

*I liked the way your assignment framed the use of different media to simultaneously capture traces of events unfolding (so I was all body, ears and eyes and pen, oriented towards the situation, following a series of overlapping events) and then take the time to individually sort out and compile what might be of interest to others (so I was all author, oriented towards an audience, manufacturing a narrative), then taking a next step and presenting those pieces and bits of interest to the other members of the group (so we could collectively re-immense into the documented situation, appreciating the capacities of the different media), finally exchanging thoughts on our materials and modalities in the plenary session.*

*Soundwise, I tended to capture spoken words and write them down (at least, the Brandenburg dialect the men used made me think of how to transcribe the words I heard, and not just put them down in a standardized way). I found it hard to find the right words to do justice to other sounds.*

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Riding home, I wondered: Have we really been 5 scholars observing 3 men in blue collars working?