LESSON 6  BUILDINGS AND MORE
Adapted from Walk Around the Block Activity Guide from Center for Understanding the Built Environment (CUBE).

Overview
A picture says a thousand words. Or is it, a building says a thousand words? Students conduct research on two local buildings, and take on the persona of two buildings in this creative writing assignment.

Objective
Students will be able to:
1. Compose narratives of events from the perspective of buildings in the community.
2. Integrate the creative writing process into the study of the community.

Procedure
1. Using pictures the students have taken, students select two buildings, and write a conversation the two buildings might have with each other. If your classroom window(s) provide a view of the community, students may choose two of the buildings in their visual landscape to converse with each other.

2. Students identify the two “Talking Buildings” described in their paper. If possible, have students do research on the two buildings so that their paper is historical fiction.

Assessment
Points are given for complete conversations. It is suggested that you determine the minimum length of the assignment. Do not allow students to simply fill in the speech bubbles on the “Talking Buildings” worksheet.

Michigan Content Standards Addressed
Language Arts

Standard 2. Meaning and Communication
• All students will demonstrate the ability to write clear and grammatically correct sentences, paragraphs, and compositions.

Standard 6. Voice
• All students will learn to communicate information accurately and effectively and demonstrate their expressive abilities by creating oral, written, and visual texts that enlighten and engage an audience.