

FIELD NOTES

Student 3 ● Prof. Mani ● Fall 2020

Field Note #1-

1st thread- "Cozy porch in Autumn".

- The community is r/cozyplaces, specifically the image "Cozy porch in Autumn". Seasonal tag.
- Values- Anything can be cozy, but must invoke a feeling in the viewer. The more upvotes, the more the community thinks the photo is representative of the subreddit. Create your own cozy place. Goals- Create a palace of safety and security from the unknown. The community's needs reflect its values and goals. (the needs of the subreddit are determined by the goals and values). Ideologies- must invoke a feeling to be considered cozy. Belief- All cozy places have certain characteristics in common- seating area, accent table, pillows, blankets, pets, plants, etc. Desire- to create my very own cozy place using the tools (items, furniture, decor, etc) I already have. Needs- To create a cozy place that makes you feel safe and secure.
- Members on r/cozyplaces connect with each other through comments on threads. Photos of "cozy". Uses descriptive words to describe the cozy place or shares their thoughts/feelings about said cozy place. Comments- each comment reflects the author's sentiment towards said cozy place, based on their life experiences, values, culture, perspective, etc. A lot of members try to relate/form a connection with the other commenters. This could be accomplished by building off another's idea/comment or by asking specific questions about the location/build of said cozy area. Specifically, a lot of the comments on this post contain user's thoughts on the location of the cozy place.
- Example: "My parent's porch in Autumn". Pictured: inside porch (no heat). Blue rug with white flowers (the ones you blow to make a wish for). Bench- dark cherry. White chair cushions on dark wood (cherry) frame. Small white patio table with matching patio chairs (fairy tale look/aesthetic). Mid to late afternoon- setting sun. view- lake with red, yellow, green leaves on the tree. Mountains. Light blue sky with fluffy white clouds. Looks like it belongs in a story book. Tree branch hanging low towards the window of the porch- makes the porch appear somewhat secluded. Creates a sense of privacy, safety, and security. The comment "Heaven definitely comes with good foliage" expresses this ideal.

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- Power- Op is respected. More power than commenters. Ask questions about cozy place- gives you more power. Praise for original content. Love relating to each other.
- Intimacy- relating to one another. Example- connecting on similar topic or sharing a common interest or passion for something.
- I expect members to behave well - top comments and responses and generally positive.

https://www.reddit.com/r/CozyPlaces/comments/j9qfsv/intdiy_my_parents_porch_in_a_utumn/

Thread 2- "Our small city back patio"

- r/cozyplaces
- Gorgeous floor stenciling, looks like a tiled floor, which is usually more money. Tried to make the area look more wealthy by incorporating a neutral color scheme- greys, cream, honey, etc. The back white fence has some artificial green leaves, there is a honey wood table in the middle, which is parallel to a matching honey wood couch with dark grey cushions and white and grey patterned pillows. On the other side of the table are two honey colored circular chairs with a white fur like pillow on each one- incorporates a modern-like element. The side fence has a black and white plant table and behind it there is a honey colored weaved swing chair with cream colored cushions. Behind the side fence is a white brick wall stained with black and grey marks, most likely due to time and use.
- Same ones that I previously mentioned. They all seek to relate and identify with one another and create their own coziness. They discuss the location of the cozy place and elements featured in the cozy area. Other comments compared it to being located in an alley, due to the rowboat home located next to the fence.
- Connect with each other through comments about the elements of the cozy place and its practicality.
- Power is distributed the same way in the other thread, as previously mentioned.
- I suspect members will behave in the same way as they have been.

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- Tag- “living space”
- Intimacy- relating to the original poster’s (OP)

https://www.reddit.com/r/CozyPlaces/comments/jc9czt/ext_diy_oc_our_small_city_back_patio/

Thread 3- “You can pry my 6 throw blankets from my cold, dead, cozy, hands”

- r/cozyplaces
- A meme. The image has a picture of a man with long hair who is wrapped in a brown and tan robe. Or what appears to be this robe is looking up with a serious expression on his face, as though he is contemplating or questioning something of importance. Surrounding him is a grey background with pillows, blankets, fairy lights, and plants. On the image itself the text is in black with quotation marks surrounding it, suggesting that the OP does not agree with the opinion expressed on the meme. The text reads, “Ugh, r/cozyplaces is just fairy lights, blankets, and plants”. The text at the bottom of the screen is in white and does not have quotations, indicating that it is expressing the opinion of the OP. The text reads, That’s.. why i’m here.
- Values/goals/beliefs- perceptiveness of the community. Community members are reflecting on themselves, especially on how they function together in the community. Sharing woes about the creation of their cozy place. Failures on creating their own cozy place, or things they wish they could achieve but cannot. Like keeping plants alive for a while. Sharing complaints about other commenters who are never happy with the subreddit and always complaining. Reinforces the idea that everyone has their own version of what cozy looks like, but it always has a certain essence. Addresses wealthy looking cozy places, the common characteristics continuously seen in cozy posts that are consistently upvoted for, and expressed a dislike for reposts and sob stories.
- Connect to one another by relating. Like previously mentioned.
- Power- who’s self-reflection was most accurate? Who is more perceptive about the community and why?

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- Intimacy- sharing failures (if you cannot keep a plant alive- which is usually an important characteristic for a cozy place).
- Members seem more hostile in this post- not sure why. Maybe its because of the disagreements on the essence of cozy- even though the community has previously established it through the upvoting process. It's like many users were unaware of these parallels and never really started thinking about the functions and larger extent of their subreddit. This idea could be explored more in depth.

https://www.reddit.com/r/CozyPlaces/comments/j6101m/meme_you_can_pry_my_6_t_hrow_blankets_from_my_cold/

Field Note #2

All three threads are found in the same community and share similar values (as previously mentioned).

- In all three threads, community members have consistently reflected on themselves. They use their experiences, perspectives, and culture and apply it to the post. Examples of this are when commenters in thread 1 ask about the location of the patio, the view, and the animals the family has probably seen on or near their property. They also shared questions about where they think the patio is located and relate it to other places in New England which they think is particularly beautiful in the fall as well. This parallels with the second thread as users are asking questions about the location of the cozy place. A few commenters noticed a dingy white wall beyond the white fence, and asked if the home was located in or next to an alley. Someone else commented that the patio looked like a “parking garage”. Other commenters related to this as they complained about having small outdoor spaces as well. Others complimented the elements of coziness included in the photo- tiles, and some suggested ways on how to protect the patio from rain and how to make the area more cozy. For the third thread, users are asked to reflect directly on community values and previous/ongoing debates on the subreddit. A lot of users were complaining about how they hate sob stories and find them annoying. One comment in particular reflected on several community complaints- sob

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stories, places that are too rich looking to be called cozy, and the idea that coziness is not a ton of blankets and fairy lights. Other commenters discussed the versatility of fairy lights in creating different vibes of coziness (beach or fair theme, or christmas theme). All commenters want to learn more about the cozy place and want to incorporate the ways discussed to create their own cozy place, in search of safety and security. They all express their feelings and opinions towards the cozy places and discuss the cozy elements in the photo.

Field Note #3

- Behavior patterns that are the most interesting- perceptive and engaging comments in the thread receive more upvotes. What makes a person think that beautiful views are not cozy and only for rich people? A lot of people do not take into consideration the differences in certain areas. For example, having a beautiful view in NYC is harder to achieve than having a beautiful view in Montana. Wealth looks different in various places, especially in the U.S. Cities have always been more expensive than rural areas in relation to views, indoor spaces, and patios/balconies. However, there are a few exceptions to the rule, especially areas near expensive ski resorts or with a high celeb population. The people who complain about this most likely feel alienated and less than. They believe it is impossible to achieve a beautiful view with their current lifestyle and maybe have no hope for future economic growth and financial security. A lot of people tend to feel insecure about their finances. It is seen as a very private thing that ought not to be shared with others. So the question becomes, what type of effect of socioeconomic class have on our perceptions of what is achievable? Wealth most likely affects what we see as cozy, beyond the essence or general idea of cozy. It affects what we will recommend to other users to buy to make a place more cozy, affect our physical experiences with cozy places, and our awareness of the accessibility of the cozy place.