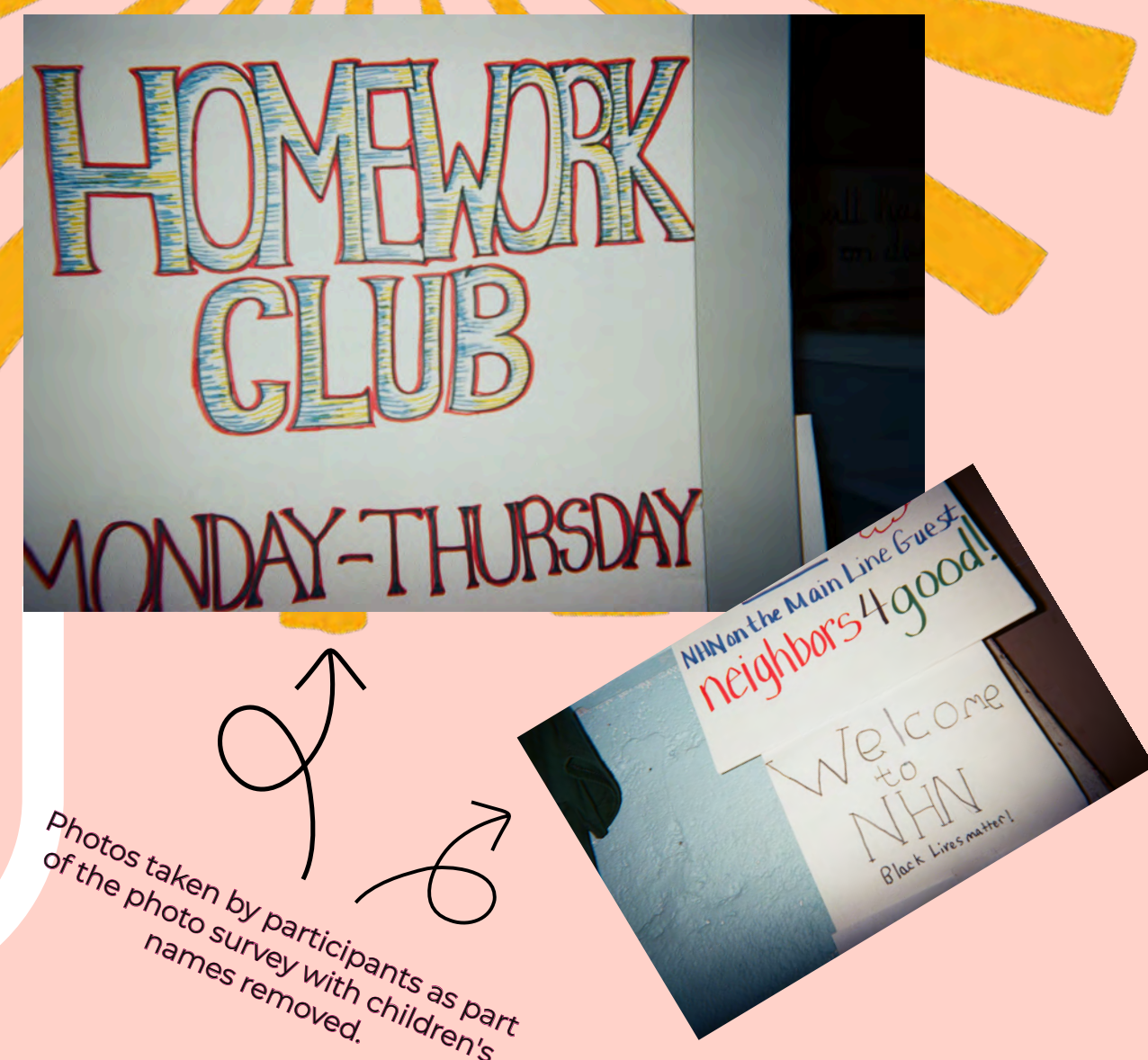


# Creative Data: Exploring intersections of data and community with -



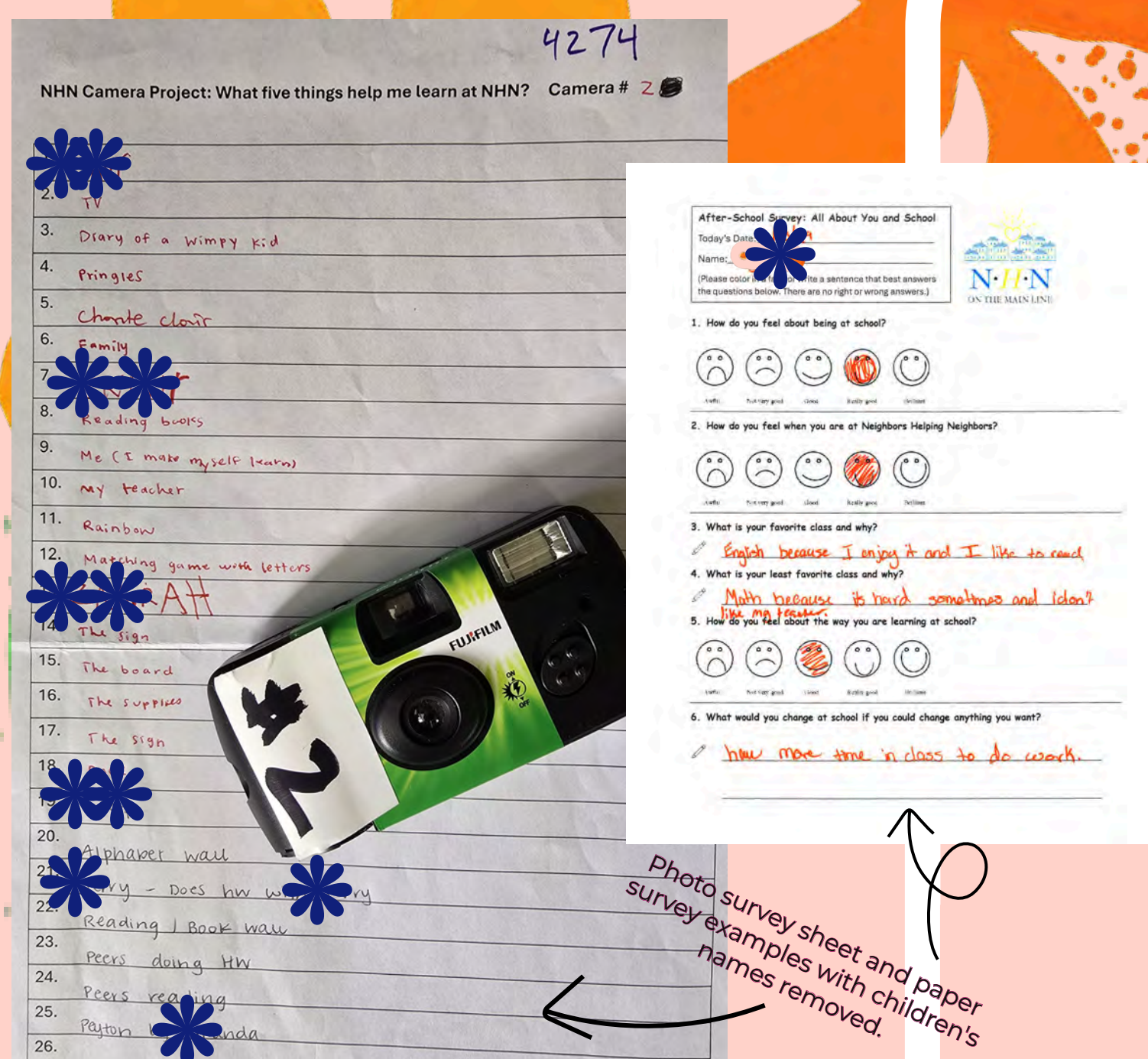
## The Project:

Neighbors Helping Neighbors on the Main Line (NHN) is a grassroots organization supporting underrepresented communities and youth in the Greater Philadelphia region. One of the three cornerstone initiatives of NHN programming is their Education Empowerment work. During the school year an important part of this work takes place during their Homework Club which provides Free in-person after-school homework help and healthy snacks, Monday through Thursday. Tutors include neighbors, retired teachers, and students from Haverford and Bryn Mawr Colleges. The focus of our Creative Data praxis project was to collect data to quantitatively and qualitatively represent and measure the success of the NHN homework club program and identify how the work of NHN is so successful in helping their participants succeed in school.



## Challenges and Opportunities:

- Challenges with determining the scope of our data collection, as well as the most appropriate means for doing so. We had to revise the scope of the project in collaboration with NHN many times.
- Eventually we settled on paper survey and photo prompt survey for program participants, which had very different levels of success in terms of engagement and enthusiasm!
- Learned a lot via the amazing guidance and advice of the ARJ teaching team, Muneera, and Rachael! The work inside of NHN with the team that knows the children so well was key to framing the questions and the scope of the project in a way that could connect and engage the children.



## Accomplishments and Contributions:

- Collected information about school and NHN experiences via survey responses, while not all children wanted to participate in the paper survey, we had 100% participation in the photo survey.
- Developed disposable camera film photos in response to the prompt “what helps you learn at NHN?”, and collected corresponding explanations for each picture by their photographer.
- Organized and digitized data for easier accessibility for the program and ongoing interpretation and discussion and use.



## Future Work:

- Complete second (or more) rounds of paper survey administration, to compare for difference in responses over time.
- Data interpretation, especially of the photos (currently using the 10S framework for Nonprofit organizations).
- Bringing some prints of the photos that the children took back to NHN so they can see what photos they took and stay connected to the project.
- In line with Photovoice work, it would be super interesting to use the photos to facilitate conversation amongst NHN tutors + kids to interpret together! Next steps to work on framing questions and project goals for a photovoice style data project with NHN, maybe as another semester's praxis project.





# CREATIVE DATA

## REFLECTION AND PERSONAL LEARNING

There was a big learning curve at the beginning of the project related to what type of data and information we were allowed to collect about children and if we were subject to IRB approval, etc.

We had numerous site visits and had to adjust a lot of the project parameters after receiving feedback, so the scope of the project and what was ultimately feasible given the semester timeline changed to a single benchmark project and to put more emphasis on defining future work and ongoing projects for photo data.

### NAME OF COURSE:

Advancing Racial Justice - B234

**FACULTY ADVISORS:** Dr. Darlyne Bailey, Sarah Spath, and Jasmin Diaz Tello

**COMMUNITY PARTNER:** NHN

### NAME(S) OF NHN SUPERVISORS:

Muneera Walker, Rachael Omansky Chou

### WHO IS TEAM CREATIVE DATA?:

Hana Sandomirsky, Peyton Roberson, and Diane Gentry



**HANA**

I am so grateful to have had to the opportunity to learn more about the incredible work being done at NHN this semester. I learned a lot about the difference between community based and community placed organizations, and was able to gain an experiential understanding of the power of an organic approach to meeting community need. NHN is such a special part of the Ardmore neighborhood, and I feel really lucky to have been able to see a little bit of how they work together to make a transformative, restorative impact on the lives they touch!

Working with NHN was the highlight of my semester! Being able to see the hard and intentional work that NHN does was really inspiring. I'm looking forward to seeing how this organization continues to grow and touch the lives of many more. Because I don't want to part from NHN just yet, I plan to incorporate NHN into my schedule next semester so that I can continue to work with the group.

**PEYTON**

**DIANE**

It was wonderful to work with an organization that I already had a relationship with in a different capacity and to better understand another facet of the incredible work they do in the local community. It was so interesting to see the complete change in excitement and engagement levels that the children had when taking the traditional paper survey vs. using the cameras. Having them engage in their own data collection in a fun way really was a breakthrough in how to collect information and I can't wait to explore how to use the photos to have conversations about what helps make NHN such a success.

**Group Reflection:** Data sorting, labeling, and interpretation are the biggest remaining chunks of work that our team has left to accomplish. We also still want to better understand how to represent and communicate the data we have collected to clearly define next steps. One semester was just too short a timeline to accomplish a project of this scope.

Ultimately, the Creative Data Team would still like to understand how to collect more information about the roots of what makes NHN successful in the work they do, and the homework club is just one small part of this work. Would it be possible to benchmark the success of other parts of their programming using the homework club photo technique and feedback that comes directly from the participants as data collaborators?