

## Toulmin's Memory Aid to the Streets of the French Quarter in NOLA

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## Notes on this Memory Aid

- This memory aid uses startling images, rhyme, number shapes and other memory techniques to help you recall the name, numbering, order and one-way direction of all the major streets in the French Quarter of New Orleans. For the system to work, you must visualize the images intently.
- Rhymes: for streets running parallel to the river, take the numbering that begins at that street (e.g. " 500 " - this is actually the first major street, since the first 4 streets were washed away by the river!), convert that into a single digit number (" 5 "), then recall the rhyme ("five = hive"), then recall the strange image associated with that word: "a hive of bees like Barbary Pirates chases Stephen Decatur southbound on Decatur street." (So Decatur St. is one-way S-bound.)
- Number shapes: for streets running down toward the river, take the numbering that begins at that street (e.g. " 800 "), then recall the image associated with that street ( $8=$ two halos above each other on the head of St. Ann, the mother of the Virgin Mary); she is walking toward the river. (Other examples: a " 2 " looks like the neck of a swan; a " 7 " looks like an ax, etc.)
- The small black numbers (e.g. "301" and "302") remind you that the odd numbers are on the N side of the street on the streets running perpendicular to the river, and that the odd numbers are on the side away from the river for the streets running parallel to the river.
- You can then use all this to figure out where an address is, e.g., 805 Chartres St. is on a street that runs parallel to the river, and is one street further away from the river than Decatur (a "charter" school is made of bricks and sticks $=6=$ one block from Decatur which is 5). The 805 means that it is just beyond the cross street of St. Ann street, the eighth major street north of Canal street. And the odd number (805) means that your target address is on the side of Chartres St. away from the river. QED

