

Ethnography Study of Culture (Due WEEK 6)

Instructor: Dr. Rhianna C. Rogers

NAME: _____

DIRECTIONS:

You are to observe, record & interpret a social situation (the environment, material culture, people, what they do, say, feel, how it smells, using all of your senses).

Making Observations

- 1) Pick a person or persons who are unfamiliar to you.
- 2) Pay attention to the characteristics of the individual and environment (e.g. physical surroundings, artifacts, and possible interests)
- 3) You might note the cultural affiliations, gender and age of participants, but make this a small part of it – you are there to observe what people and how individuals interact with the scene you are observing...your job is NOT to JUDGE them!!!
- 4) Note people's responses to your questions (e.g. response to change, feelings about their environment, and feelings about college/subject like US History)
- 5) If note taking is not possible, go to a place right afterwards and write up your observations. The sooner the better. You will forget the important details.
- 6) If possible, try and interview or talk with someone casually.
- 7) Do not get yourself in a situation you cannot easily handle. Act ethically to other people. Do not do this assignment in a vacuum. Rather, discuss it in class, talk about it with friends, come talk to me, test out your interpretation and get feedback.
- 8) Last...have fun!

Questions to help guide your survey:

1. INTRODUCTION

- a. What social, economic, and/or environmental scene or person are you observing? Include details about the individual or scene below (HINT: To get the best grade, pay attention to details, connect thoughts back to your readings, and try to think like an anthropologist. Here is a good article to help you:

<https://press.princeton.edu/ideas/ten-ways-to-think-like-an-anthropologist>)

2. SURVEY

a. Find answers to the following questions (do not insert your ideas or opinions here, just collect, verbatim, what people told you:

1. Rank your feelings about US History on a scale of 1-10 (1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest). Take observational notes for each individual and plot the numerical answer in the chart below.

2. Rank your feelings about Anthropology and/or Ethnology on a scale of 1-10 (1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest). Take observational notes for each individual and plot the numerical answer in the chart below.

3. When was the last time you took a history course, in junior high school, high school, or college? Take observational notes for each individual and plot the numerical answer in the chart below.

Data Collected

Interviewee (Name)	Ranked US History	Ranked Anthropology/Ethnology	Took History Course

3. INTERPRETATION

a. Based on the data you collected in both the Environmental and Survey sections, explain what you have learned about the following. (HINT: To get the best grade, pay attention to details, connect thoughts back to your readings, and try to think like an anthropologist. Here is a good article to help you:

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1. What are people's general perceptions of US History? (Tie in resources from the course)

2. What are people's general perceptions of Anthropology/Ethnology? Do they know what it is?(Tie in resources from the course)

3. When was the last time that most people took a History course? (Tie in resources from the course)

4. Your own observations and final/comments about this exercise:
