

**Instructions for Activity Log of Data**  
**COMM 664 – Fall 2011**

In this assignment, you will familiarize yourself with your data by making a log of the major actions and activities in your recording. There are two major parts to this activity log. You must do both for full credit. You may focus on any continuous segment (or a combination of several discontinuous segments) that equal 60 minutes in total. Make sure to choose parts of the data with good audio quality and that contain anything you find interesting that you might want to analyze or transcribe later. With this assignment you will also start to think and write about possible project topics. Make sure to type your assignment in 12 pt. Times or Times New Roman font. I will not accept this as a handwritten assignment. Print out two copies of the assignment for the day it is due so I can give you feedback on one and you can write notes and keep the other. Please see example provided on ilearn.

**Part 1**

At the beginning of your assignment indicate the following information.  
(examples of responses are given in parenthesis and italics )

**Date and time of recording:** (ex. *Saturday, Sept 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 – 9:00 PM*)

**List the name of files and segment(s) covered in this activity log:**

( *“wingard family dinner 1”, 6:00 – 6:15, 7:30 – 8:00*)

**Name of student(s) who recorded the data:** (*Leah Wingard*)

**Setting:** In at least 5 sentences, describe the setting and activities in the recording. Where are the participants and what kinds of activities are they engaged in during the recording?

**Participants:** List the participants who are present in the recording. Make sure to use pseudonyms for your participants. Give their approximate ages and briefly describe their relationships to one another. Identify the participants by drawing a very simple sketch of where each participant is located at the beginning of the recording or the beginning of a time segment you are logging and indicate the time code for the moment in the image you are using (stick figures and basic shapes are fine!).

**Activity log entries:**

For the segments you choose, summarize the major “chunks” of activities and actions in talk in the center column. Note discursive practices of interest in the far right column. See possible suggestions for list below. Note the timecode and file name in the left column. Your log should consist of at least 30 entries. This is **not** the place to start to transcribe what is said, instead we want to describe and summarize the actions accomplished by participants and their talk.

Use three major headings in a table like this:

<b>Timecode</b>	<b>Description activities and actions</b>	<b>Practices of interest</b>
Wingard 1: 2:00 - 4:00	Leah asks Chris how he made the lasagna and he explains. Leah complements him on the lasagna	Instruction giving, Assessments
4:00 – 6:00	Chris tells about the time his grandmother burned the lasagna	Storytelling
6:00 – 8:00	Chris comments about the cheese on Leah’s chin, teases her about eating messy	Teasing/joking

You can keep in mind the following kinds of structures and concepts we have been and will be discussing in class that could be notable.

- Person reference (calling someone something, categorizing persons who are present or non present in descriptions)
- Assessments (when people evaluate something in positive or negative terms)
- Compliments (Please make special notes of any compliments you see)
- Accounts (for example justifications, explanations, excuses, reasons)
- Reproaches (questioning, criticize, requesting an account or explanation)
- Agreement and disagreement (orienting to another’s assessment or stance)
- Formulations (names or describes) something in a particularly interesting way
- Storytelling or recalling past events
- Speakers trying to get other speakers to do things (“directives”) may be direct or indirect
- Teasing and joking
- Gossiping
- Places where participants are clearly “doing” relationship
- Places where people are doing “power”
- Places where identity seems central (think race/ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, class or other)
- Turn-taking seems to be difficult or problematic for the participants (for example, places with lots of interruption or overlap, or long pauses)
- A person seems to dominate the conversation

## **Part 2**

### **My observations and interests:**

After doing the activity log, think about what catches your attention about this data as you look at it. In three different and separate paragraphs, write about 3 different aspects of the data that you think may be of interest to pursue for closer examination for a final project. Explain what you think is compelling or interesting about it and what specific time segments might be interesting for looking at this. Base this explicitly on what you've seen in your activity log entries. List time codes and file names for where that topic seems relevant.

Topic #1: one paragraph

Topic #2: one paragraph

Topic #3: one paragraph