

COMM 562
Fieldnote #4—Storytelling
DUE: Monday, October 31, 2010

This observation asks you think of, write, and tell a story in some situation. The point is to try out the storytelling techniques and the evaluation criteria we discussed in class.

Assignment

Write 1.5-2, typed double-spaced pages. Use as much of the vocabulary and concepts we have covered in class and illustrate them as well as you can with as much detail as possible. Underline terms and concepts we have used in class when you use them in your writing. Be sure to define your terms!

As an example:

Smartie Goodgrades
COMM 562 T/TH 4-6
Observation #5

Instructions:

First, think of a favorite story and write it down in no more than 1/4-1/2 page.

Second, while you go about your everyday life in the next week or so, be on the lookout for situations in which you can tell your story. When the right situation occurs, tell it!

Third, as you tell the story, pay close attention to the three components of storytelling we covered in class. The remainder of the assignment asks you to report and describe what happened before, during, and after you tell the story. Because stories can be long, DO NOT PROVIDE A TRANSCRIPT FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT. Rather, focus your attention on an analysis as detailed below.

Finally, as soon as possible after telling the story, in the remaining 1-1 1/2 pages, please describe:

- 1) how you began to tell the story (e.g., tellability, telling rights, preface)?
- 2) how your story was received during the telling (e.g., recipient alignment)? was your recipient(s) aligned with your telling? how do you know? how did s/he (or they) align or disalign?
- 3) how successful the storytelling was after the story is over? Did the storytelling
 - 3a) result in topic talk related to the story?
 - 3b) result in another participant telling a second story?
 - 3c) result in another participant showing that she or he understood one (or more) of the 'points' of the story in some other way?
- 4) did something else of interest happen while you were in the process of telling your story? If so, what?

The criteria for evaluating this assignment will rely on your ability to identify and describe the features about storytelling we discussed in class related to the questions 1-4 above. While excessively formal language is not required, please check for spelling and grammar errors and make sure your observation is not written using an overly "conversational" tone.

I encourage you to see me or e-mail me with any questions regarding this observation.