

Bracketing Exercise Part 1

Due: Friday, 2/10 by 9 AM

- Bring hard copy of field notes to class or upload to D2L if took field notes on your laptop

Grade: 100 pts (2% of grade)

Assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to illustrate that you know how to identify communication practices during participant observation *and* bracket assumptions about communication practices in your field notes.

Turn in your field notes taken thus far. In your field notes, focus on *communication practices* you observe taking place your community. Use L&T's tips for 'tactical observing' to help identify practices during participant observation.

Your scratch notes will obviously be jotted down quickly and not have a particular format. In your field notes, you will bracket your assumptions by using two columns when taking notes:

- Column 1: objective descriptions of participants' verbal and non-verbal communication
- Column 2:
 - Add notes about meaning or significance of this practice *to the community*;
 - add other thoughts or insights you have as a researcher (e.g., 'this communication happens a lot', 'this communication seems to perform this function for the community', 'I should interview people about what this practice means).

During participant-observation, you might notice multiple different communication practices – note them in your field notes as they appear.

Requirements

- Observations from at least 1 hour. It does not have to be one continuous hour. You can observe 10 minutes one day, 30 minutes another day, etc. – about 3-4 pages of field notes
- Organization: follow the instructions about the two columns
 - Field notes should be taken on whatever seems most natural for your field site. Most people bring a small notebook or notepad. Others use a laptop and create columns that way.