

ASSIGNMENT #3

The purpose of this assignment is to provide you with an opportunity to conduct a small field study. The following research guidelines are for the protection of human subjects, so it is very important that you follow them.

Attached are the instructions for Appendix A (interview proposal)

Here's what you need to do...

1. Develop a research question based (or loosely based) on your topic.
2. Identify *at least* four sources of information that address this newly focused topic. You can use sources from your existing annotated bibliography and/or add new sources. The key is to identify material **relevant** to your current research question. Write up an annotated bibliography of all sources identified.
3. Write an informative literature review based on your bibliographical search. Remember to include text citations in the body of your work.
4. Select a **public access research site** that will provide appropriate observations to address your research question. Such sites include sporting/entertainment events, libraries, banks, grocery stores, parks, restaurants, and so on. Where you live and private parties **are not** public sites. These places are not accessible to the general public. Consider issues of protection of human subjects as you select your site.
5. Take the role of the total observer. Therefore, do not interact with the people you are observing; you are the "fly on the wall."
6. Observe the behavior of people moving in and out of your research site for at least two hours. Take notes as you observe. Be careful that your note taking does not interfere with the people you are observing; in other words, your presence should not disrupt the social setting you are observing.
7. **Immediately after leaving the field**, write *detailed* field notes, including date, time, and place of study. Record all of your direct and contextual observations. Also write about you - how you felt as a researcher, where you are writing your field notes, date, time, and any other feelings and internal observations you are experiencing. Note any ethical concerns you have in this column.
8. Analyze your findings using the techniques discussed in the textbook.

***** *over please* *****

The assignment you turn in will be a research report of your study and your findings. As such, it should include the following sections in the order listed. Be sure to give your paper a title. Subheadings are appropriate and usually quite helpful.

1. An introduction to your project; what you did, and why. Be sure to socially locate yourself.
2. A literature review.
3. A discussion of your research methodology.
4. A discussion of how you have protected the human subjects you observed. Remember to consider issues of informed consent, risks, and benefits of your study.
5. A discussion of your findings. This might include how you developed your analytic categories from your observations, what social meanings your social actors attached to their behaviors/how they displayed their "social knowledge" through their behaviors, what social norms were acted out, how your social actors defined their situations, what various social roles you observed, how the immediate and wider social contexts influenced what you observed, and so on. **This is second order interpretation.** Your analysis should also include a description of both the immediate and the wider social contexts of your observations that is relevant to your data and findings. Also **be sure to include you what you observed** (first order interpretation) that illustrates your secondary interpretations.
6. A conclusion. Remember that a conclusion is more than a summary of what you already said. It should truly provide a synthesis of your work and how it may fit into the more general understandings and interpretations of your topic you summarized in your literature review.
7. A *Works Cited* page.
8. A separate annotated bibliography.
9. A copy of your *original* field notes. Any assignment turned in without field notes will receive a "0."