

Community Ethnography Essay #3: The Interview and Annotated Bibliography

This third draft is actually a two part essay that will combine two levels of research as you continue to explore your community/culture and answer the questions that a good ethnographer goes after.

Part I. Interview

For some people this is the hardest part of an ethnographic study. Rather than just sitting back and looking at things, you need to actually talk to at least **two people** in the culture you are researching. This is where you will be “stepping in” and no longer be just an observer. You should, prior to your interview, do a mini-assessment of the work that you have done. Start to make some preliminary decisions about what makes this culture a culture: what their story is and then you should prepare some questions to ask at least two people that you think will a) be willing to be interviewed and b) will give you information that you can work with. A good interview will include the following:

- Questions/answers that follow up on some of the observations you already been making
- Questions/answers that tell us about the people that you are interviewing- so we can know them. Visualize them, etc.
- Questions/answers that allow the interviewee to go off on possible new ideas/new sources of information/new tangents/new stories.

As always you may not use everything in the final piece but write what you think is important at the time. Try to avoid setting up your essay as a Q&A. Rather, use quotes and paraphrases as examples and evidence throughout your essay.

Crafting a Thesis: As with any essay you should develop a thesis statement that you prove throughout your essay with evidence and support. A thesis statement in this case might state what you notice to be important about this place and this group through what you have heard going on and from the opinion of those you interviewed.

Audience: Your audience for this essay, as with each of the essays forming the ethnography, is two-fold: First, it is the people at the site you are observing and second, it is your peers as you will be sharing parts of this writing with them.

Brass Tacks: Your interview paper should be 4-5 pages long, not including any images.

Part II. Annotated Bibliography

As with any research project primary observation and sources alone are not enough. You must conduct secondary research to see what others may be saying about this culture and do find more information on things that are relevant to the theories and ideas you are developing. For part II of this assignment you will create an annotated bibliography with at least 6 viable secondary sources. We will discuss in class what a viable source is, how to evaluate them, and how to create an annotated bibliography. Basically an annotated bibliography contains the following:

- The source cited in proper MLA format
- The main argument of the source
- The primary evidence the source uses to support the main argument
- Context surrounding the source that makes it relevant and significant (i.e. author, publication venue, etc.)

- Why the source is relevant to your own research

Each of your annotations should contain these five points and be at least one to two paragraphs long not including the citation. You might not end up using all six sources in your final essay, but you should include things that may be helpful.

Brass Tacks: Your annotated bibliography should be 2-3 pages long.

How I will Evaluate Your Essay

I am using something called "spec" grading to evaluate and assign a grade for your essay draft. The grade is the result of quantity--or just doing what I'm asking you to do--and to a lesser extent, quality. As explained in the syllabus, your work on your essay draft will determine 10% (5% draft with workshop participation and 5% final) of your final grade for each one, 30% total.

In order to earn a "B" grade for that 10%- (5% draft with workshop participation and 5% final)

- You must complete the workshop draft and the revised draft that is turned into me.
- Respond to the prompts.
- Write an essay that is at least four pages . It can be over. It can't be under.
- Writes an annotated bibliography with at least 6 sources and annotations.
- Use examples from at least two interviews that support the narrative.
- Have a thesis, introduction, and conclusion
- Show awareness of audience
- Is properly cited in MLA or APA with minimal errors

In order to earn an "A" grade for that 10%- (5% draft with workshop participation and 5% final)

- You must complete the workshop draft and the revised draft that is turned into me.
- Respond to the prompts.
- Write an essay that is at least five pages .
- Writes an annotated bibliography with at least 6 relevant sources and detailed, complete annotations with all parts.
- Use detailed examples from at least two interviews that support the narrative.
- Have a thesis, introduction, and conclusion
- Show keen awareness of audience
- Is properly cited in MLA or APA with no errors

In order to earn a "C" grade for that 10%- (5% draft with workshop participation and 5% final)

- You must complete the workshop draft and the revised draft that is turned into me.
- Respond to the prompts.
- Write an essay that is less than four pages .
- Writes an annotated bibliography with at least 6 sources and annotations but parts are incomplete.
- Use minimal examples from interview that support the narrative.
- Have a thesis, introduction, and conclusion
- Show awareness of audience
- Attempts citation in MLA or APA

If you do not meet the requirements for a "C" paper, you will fail the paper for that 10% of your grade.