

Your field notes are the bread and butter of your research, and you must commit yourself to being thorough and consistent in maintaining them. At the very least you should write several pages after every experience in your field site or with research participants, including with your research partner. There are several good volumes in the library that discuss the mechanics of writing fieldnotes. I suggest that you explore the possibilities, and select a method that suits you personally.

In addition to writing field notes, you also need to think about analyzing your field notes, and turning your observations and remarks on observations into a form of data, or analyzable material. The books on field notes often include this type of information, but you should also consider looking at methods books and methodology references for more depth and thoughtfulness about field notes as an integral part of the research process.

For this course, you must maintain a field notes journal that you will submit to catey twice: once on March 3, for a preliminary review; and the second time on April 14th for a semester-end review. As with the Research Journals, you may keep electronic or hardcopy field notes, but you must submit hardcopy or printout copy for review. Your field notes will not be shared, although if any student(s) submit exceptional quality field notes, catey will ask permission to share them with the class.

As with the Research Journals, you must include the following information in each field note entry:

1. Day, date, time
2. Location
3. Activity
4. Notes on the activity, etc.