Project 3. Photo Documentation of an Everyday Activity

Due Feb 4, 2010

Goal: To learn how to attend to the details of the everyday world.

Procedure
1. Choose an activity to document
2. Obtain informed consent
3. Take photos
4. Choose two photos to describe
5. Describe the photos

Criteria to consider when choosing an activity
- Interesting to you
- Accessible
- Observable
- People in interaction with
  - One another
  - Material environment

Obtain Informed Consent
- You must obtain the informed consent of participants in the activity before you take photos.
- The procedures for obtaining informed consent are described on the informed consent page.
- You must turn in the signed informed consent form(s) with the assignment.
- While you are obtaining that consent, also find at least one participant in the activity who will agree to talk to you about the activity later.

Obtain a Camera
- If you don’t already have access to a camera, buy a disposable camera.
- If the activity you have chosen takes place indoors or at night, be sure your camera has a flash.

Anticipate coming assignments
- Look ahead in the course. This could be a good time to make contact with a community that will provide the data for the remainder of the class projects.
- Consider 102C connection
Take Pictures

- Take pictures of the activity.
- Try to capture interesting aspects of the activity and the social and material environment in which it takes place.
- Shoot at least 15 frames.
- Shoot both wide and close.
- Consider cognitive aspects of the activity

Process the Images

- Upload the images to your computer.
- If you used a film camera, get the film processed. Use a quick turn-around service, so you can get on to the fun part of the assignment.

Choose two images to analyze

- Carefully examine your pictures and choose 2 of them that you find most interesting.
- The two you choose should be different from each other in some way.
  - Wide/tight, social/material, state/process, before/after, front/back…

Describe the two photos

- Stick close to the data and pay attention.
- Look for evidence of cognitive activity.
- What can you infer from what you see?
- How do things go together in the photo?
- What, where, who, when, how?
- Hopefully, you will see things in the study of your photos that you did not see while observing the event live.

Write up the description

- Maximum 800 words of text.
- Copies of your two photos and the signed informed consent forms must be attached to the paper.
- Additional figures and tables (if they contribute to the description) are not included in the page count.

Grading Rubric

- 100 pts for quality of the project
  - Solid description with some interpretation = 80
  - Add analysis, reflection, descriptive detail = 85
  - Add cognitive interpretation and insight = 90
  - Add good use of concepts from readings and lectures = 95+
- 25 pts for presentation
  - Clear references to reading and lecture
  - Formatting and presentation
- No consent form = No grade