Project 2. Photo Documentation of an Everyday Activity

Text Due Jan 23, 2011
Reviews Due Jan 28, 2011

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

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

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) in lecture or section before January 27.
- 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.

Cognitive Science Coursework
Photo & Notes Consent Form

As part of a course I am taking, I would like to observe your activities. I will take photographs of you and your physical surroundings. At times, I may take notes on your activities, or may ask you to elaborate on or clarify your actions. My photographs and notes will be used only for the purposes of this class project. This is completely voluntary and up to you. You may request to stop the taking notes or photos at any time or to erase/destroy any portion of the notes or photos. You have read the above description and agree to participate in the study.

Signature Date
Witness Date
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.

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.
- REFER to concepts from readings and lectures.
- USE the concepts from readings and lectures.
- 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.
- Insert links to your two photos in your text so that the photos appear in the text on CPR.
- Bring the signed informed consent forms to lecture or to section before Jan 27.
- Additional figures and tables (if they contribute to the description) can also be linked.
Grading Rubric

• When evaluating texts, look for these features
  – Clear and detailed description of the DATA (images and notes), not of the activity.
  – Analysis and reflection
  – Cognitive interpretation and insight
  – Good USE of concepts from readings and lectures
  – Clear references to readings and lectures
  – Good overall structure and organization
  – Clear writing with few or no grammatical and spelling errors