

Student 1

May 2014

English 2010

Part One

Intro

A field journal is not really an official piece of writing. This is what a lot of researchers use to take notes on what they are observing and then later turn them into a book, article, etc. They are used to be able to quickly write down what is being seen so that the writer can later look back and be able to recall. They are used in order to get the information gathered out into the world one way or another. Field journals since they are mainly for the writer can be personal and informal, however they need to be extremely accurate and unbiased.

Writer

This aspect of writing a field journal is a little weird when you first sit down to think about it. The person writing the journal could be anyone; if it's for an academic purpose it'll be a student, if it's just for fun it could be your neighbor. Who is writing it doesn't really matter unless you're looking to publicize your work. However, it's the relationship with the writer that is different. In most writings the writer writes what they're going to say then passes it on to someone else; when writing a field journal though it's almost as if you're writing to your future self. Because a field journal is only a note taking process, later on the writer will have to go back

and decipher what they were taking notes of so that they can turn it into whatever piece of writing they desire (book, article, research paper, speech, etc).

Reader

So like I said before, there is a strong relationship with the writer themselves being a reader as well. The other reader included could be the boss of the writer or whichever person is in charge of looking over their work and publishing it. Even still though, the relationship with the writer and their boss isn't as great between the writer themselves because their boss can only do so much with the actual field journal, what they would have the most say over would be the piece of writing the writer produces after they look over their journal.

Purpose

The purpose of a field journal is to share what you observed with other people. On a lower level they could turn their work into just a local magazine article or share it with other people interested in their topic. Some can be turned into speeches, while other writers strive to get their observations turned into books and published. Whichever way they choose to do it, the purpose is to share their information. Very rarely do individuals go out and observe but never share it with anyone. Even if it's just their friend who hears about it, they use the field journal to experience, collect and share information.

Conventions

There are a number of conventions involved with writing a field journal. I think some of the basic but important ones are the name of the place you're at, the surrounding environment (plants, furniture, landscape, people, etc), the time of day and date, the weather, and the name of the group or thing you're studying. All of these details are crucial because they set up where you are. What are going to help the writer further down the road will be those tiny details. A picture needs to be painted about the conditions of each day and what's going on. Alongside those the writer needs to be ready to write down close to every detail of what's happening within the environment they are studying. Even if it doesn't seem significant, if you notice it, it should be written down. Since there is going to be so much to write down it's always a good idea for the writer to make a code. If something happens often, simply make an acronym or a symbol to represent it so that you don't have to write it down four times a day. With that though, the writer needs to make sure that there is a key made somewhere so that they don't forget what each symbol means.

This type of writing can be personal and informal as well. These notes being taken are really for the writer if they want to include how they felt that day or funny side notes it's perfectly okay, the field journal is for them to mark down their experience of what is happening around them. However, it's extremely important to remember that this isn't necessarily a diary. Though the writer can add their opinion in, they have to be really careful not to add anything that doesn't pertain to the situations. Things like how much they miss their family or what clothes they are wearing (unless they are significant) aren't things that need to be written down.

Something that doesn't really seem to make a huge difference but does would be what the writer uses to write their journal. Generally it's not the best idea to use a laptop or anything

electronic, because these items are easily broken or have glitches it's too sketchy to trust them to work the whole time. Most journalists just stick to simple paper and pencil (and only pencil! No pens). They keep the notebook with them at all times so as not to miss an opportunity to write something down and to also make sure they don't lose it.

Part two

A lot of what I did for this project was read online about field journals. I looked at the two cites below which explain what they expected from a journal. The second cite was actually made by a teacher I am guessing and gave a guide line of how they wanted their students to write their field journal. This included a lot of the conventions and "do not's" that I wrote about. The other thing I did was look up on Google what field journals should look like. So I read a couple of the pictures that had been posted, and saw what others were taking note of. These were helpful because even though the written pages were good for knowing what to write about, the pictures gave me an idea of how to set my pages up and organize them.

NA. "Keeping A Field Journal 1." *Biodiversity Counts*. NA, n.d. Web. 6 May 2014.

<http://www.amnh.org/learn/biodiversity_counts/read_select/hs/fieldjnl.htm>.

NA. "Notes On Keeping A Field Journal." *Notebook*. NA, n.d. Web. 06 May 2014.

<<http://instruct.uwo.ca/biology/320y/fj.html>>.

Part Three

Time: 3:20pm Studying: Bus Ride
Date: 4/25/14
Place: Salt Lake City Bus
Weather: Sunny, Warm

I am sitting at the back of the bus. There is one woman at the front. She is in the handicap section. There are two men in the middle. As we drive there isn't any conversation.

U of U bus stop: This stop tends to bring on a lot of people. About 8 people get on. Some pair up while others sit alone or stand.

There is one girl talking loudly on her phone. Most people don't do that.

Time: 3:30pm

Date: 4/25/14

Place: SEC Bus

Studying Bus people

An old woman just got on that I've seen before

She always wears an orange safety vest & talks to whoever sits next to her. She starts talking to the bus driver. He is short, but polite to her.

Harmons Stop: This is where most people get off.

Patterns

- I've noticed that unless they get on together, men & women don't sit next to each other.

- People will stand a lot of the time instead of sit next to someone they don't know.

- Many listen to their iPod or play on their phone.

Part Four

Writer/Reader

Within my own field journal I included the process of it being read by the writer and reader by making it legible. I organized my notes in a way that I'd be able to go back to them down the road and be able to picture what was happening or be able to know what I was saying. In the same way I was making sure that if I needed to turn these notes into a professor, they'd be able to read them and understand my process.

Purpose

Through my notes I was carefully observing how people interact when they are on the bus. I wrote down certain behaviors I saw people doing and the patterns I noticed occurred the most. Within my notes I wrote in my "patterns" section "I've noticed that unless they got on together, men and women don't sit next to each other". This was an example of how I would be sharing what I've seen with other people. By writing this down I am getting ready to maybe turn it into an article and that could be something I include as something I noticed a lot.

Rhetorical Conventions

This one I think I did the most of. Because field journals call for specific things, this one was the easiest to follow. On the top of my pages I wrote the date, time, place, weather and who I was studying. These are all things that should be repeated on any new page, especially if the time or date has changed. I signified a time change in my journal by showing the time was 3:20pm when I started and 3:30pm when I changed to my second page.

I also set up a scene when I first started saying, "I am sitting at the back of the bus. There is a woman at the front in the handicap section. There are two men in the middle. As we drive there isn't any conversation". I am giving the reader a visual of where I am starting my observations from.

Another thing I did within my notes was include details. I often said how many people got on the bus at each stop; I even said which stop we were at. When one woman got on I described somewhat of what she was wearing and how she interacted with the people around her.