

# SOC 210: FIELDNOTES I

## THE D.I.E. METHOD

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### HABILIDADES (SKILLS)

- D.I.E. method
- Analytical journaling, coding, and labeling

### TAREA (ASSIGNMENT)

The purpose of this assignment is to practice qualitative research methods. To this end, you will collect information from the community that you are researching via: observations and interviewing. Throughout your study, you should keep journal entries for each visit you make to the field. Although you may organize your observations in different formats, I recommend considering the D.I.E. method, which is what you will practice here. Remember, the idea is to keep detailed field observations throughout your study, which will help you craft your final essay. For this assignment, please turn in one entry from the field in which you follow the D.I.E. method.

### Observations using the D.I.E. method (RMES)

- *Describe:* During the early days of your study choose a location from which you can make culturally acceptable observations. Focus on what you think are indicators of social patterns: gender norms, agricultural practices, lifestyle tendencies, family traits, social conditions, consumption trends, etc. Do not focus exclusively on objects (architecture, goods, etc.), but also on how people are interacting with these indicators. Note as much detail as possible. Who is doing what? Where? For how long? Is there a relationship between the activity and location? For example, if you are observing food preparation or working in on a farm, take note of who does what. How do people interact? Try to observe both what is present and what is not. Sometimes the absence of something is noteworthy. For example, how many men do you see working in the kitchen? How many women do you see planting crops? How many people in their 20s do you see at Sunday mass? Please feel free to include quotes, photos, sketches, and images here too.
- *Interpret:* After you've done with your observations, write up your "interpretation," which should include not just "what" and "how" things are done, but "why" things are done. Try to remain neutral in this portion of your journal entry. Draw connections between observations and make an attempt to explain the function behind your observations.
- *Evaluate:* Finally, after you describe what you see and interpret your observations, you should reserve some space in your journal to evaluate your thoughts on what you have seen. This is where you should let your gut reactions bleed through. How do you feel about what you've seen?
- *Label and Code:* Begin creating codes and labels in your entries. For example, if several of your observations are related to lack of access to formal education, then go back through your entries and place labels in the margins that read something like, "low formal edu." Do the same thing for other reoccurring themes. With larger projects, like your final essay, this will help organize your thoughts and add rigor to your final analysis.

### EVALUACIÓN (ASSESSMENT)

- Description: 25%
- Interpretation: 25%
- Evaluation: 25%
- Coding and Labeling: 25%