

RMES: DIARO DEL CAMPO (FIELD JOURNAL)

EL CAMPO

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 in rural Nicaragua via: observation and interviewing. You should make daily journal entries while in the campo. Each of your entries should follow the D.I.E. method. Remember, the idea is to practice making detailed field observations, which will help you prepare for your ISP. For each entry please note your location(s), date, and time of day for every observation entry.

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

- *Describe:* During your time in the campo choose a location from which you can make culturally acceptable observations. Focus on what you think are indicators of Nicaragua's rural culture—gender patterns/machismo, agricultural practices, lifestyle, family, conditions of life, etc. Do not focus exclusively on objects (architecture, goods, etc.), but rather 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 the field, 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? Please be sure 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 education, then go back through your entries and place labels in the margins that read "low edu." Do the same thing for other reoccurring themes. With larger projects, like your ISP, 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%