



<b><u>Title of Resource</u></b>	Activity: The Alien Ethnographer
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<b>Brief Description:</b>	This activity asks students to conduct a simple ethnographic study of an activity involving others.
<b>Keywords:</b>	Ethnography, Observational Methods, Qualitative Research
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<b>Additional Information:</b>	The ethnographic questions used this activity were taken from Rosnow, R. L., & Rosenthal, R. (2005). <i>Beginning behavioral research: A conceptual primer</i> (5 <sup>th</sup> ed). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

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**Instructors:**

This activity provides students with the opportunity to develop a better understanding of the role that qualitative research, more specifically ethnographic field research, has when studying human behavior. This activity is best assigned as a small project which students can work on either individually or in small groups. Having students conducting this activity in small groups can provide the opportunity to demonstrate the importance of controlling for biases in the observations and subsequent conclusions one might make after witnessing reporting on a human activity or event.

## The Alien Ethnographer

Imagine that you are an ethnographer from a different planet. As part of your alien Ph.D. requirements, you have been sent to earth to conduct an ethnographic study of any “human activity” of your choosing. This activity may be something you are currently witnessing (e.g., behavior in the student center) or something you have witnessed in the past (e.g., a family celebration of a specific holiday). You are to conduct a small ethnographic study of this observed activity by briefly answering the following questions.

### Questions to be addressed in your paper:

1. What is the name given to this activity?
2. What is the purpose of the activity?
3. What procedures are used to perform the activity?
4. What are the time and space requirements of the activity?
5. What are the personnel requirements of the activity?
6. What is the nature of the social organization?
7. What are the occasions for performance of the activity?