



APS Field Manual: Data Collection Protocols

Version: 2.0 | **Division:** Field Research | Cascadia

1. The Golden Rule: Timestamp Synchronization

Your clipboard form is analog. The subject's form is digital. **YOU are the bridge.**

- **The Critical Moment:** As soon as the subject taps "Submit" on the tablet, check your watch/phone.
- **The Action:** Write that exact time (e.g., 14:02) in the **Time of Submission** field on your clipboard.
- **Why:** The Registry uses this minute-by-minute match to merge your notes with their story. If the times don't match, the data is orphaned.

2. Coding Guide: Section B (Environment)

Use these definitions to ensure consistent coding across all teams.

Weather Conditions

- **CLEAR / OVERCAST / RAIN:** Self-explanatory.
- **STORM:** Active thunder/lightning or high wind.
- **OZ (The Oz Factor):** A sudden, localized silence. Birds stop singing, wind stops, background hum vanishes. The world feels "paused." This is a critical indicator of High Strangeness.

Ambient Noise

- **SILENT:** Near-zero decibels.
- **HUM:** The low-frequency buzz of electricity, ventilation, or "The Hum."
- **LOUD:** Chaos that might explain the subject's stress (e.g., construction noise).

Technical Interference

- **DRAIN:** Battery drops significantly (e.g., 80% to 20% in minutes) without cause.
- **GLITCH:** Screen artifacts, audio distortion, or apps crashing repeatedly.

3. Coding Guide: Section C (Subject Observation)

How to interpret the subject's behavior without diagnosing them.

Demeanor

- **CALM:** Subject is detached. They are reporting a fact, not an emotional event.
- **AGITATED:** Subject is physically restless, looking around, or jumpy.
- **INTENSE:** The "True Believer." They are trying very hard to convince you.
- **CONFUSED:** They seem unable to process what happened (Ontological Shock).
- **SKEPTICAL:** They don't want to believe what they saw ("It was probably just a drone, but...").

Narrative Delivery

- **FLUID:** The story flows naturally with pauses for thought. (High credibility).
- **REHEARSED:** They speak fast, without pauses, using specific buzzwords. It sounds like a Reddit post they memorized. (Potential Cultural Priming).
- **FRAGMENTED:** They jump around in time or struggle to find words. (Common in traumatic recall).

4. Safety & Ethics (The "No Debunking" Rule)

Your job is **Methodological Agnosticism**.

- **Do Not Validate:** Do not say, *"Wow, that sounds exactly like a Skinwalker."* (This biases their memory).
- **Do Not Debunk:** Do not say, *"That was probably just sleep paralysis."* (This shuts them down).
- **The Correct Response:** *"Thank you for sharing that. I am documenting exactly what you experienced."*

5. Deployment Checklist

Before you leave the office/base, ensure you have:

- [] 1x Tablet (fully charged) with `index.html` loaded.
- [] 1x Clipboard with 10x printed *Data Collection Instruments*.
- [] 5x *APS Resource Cards* (The quarter-sheet handout).
- [] 2x Pens (Ink can freeze or fail in the field; bring backup).
- [] 1x Analog Watch (In case of digital failure).