

FIELDBOOKS & OBSERVATION

art / science / design / inquiry

Class-specific sketchbooks or “Fieldbooks” will be used for assignment notes, observation homework, recording data, analysis, drawings and reflections. This will be your primary notebook for this class. You will be asked to scan some pages for entry to your Learning Portfolio. Go ahead and personalize your book!

Each week you will be given time over lunch break to record an observation. You will use all of your senses, and a variety of recording methods to document your observation.

GET A BOOK:

You may choose your own book, however I recommend the *Moleskine, 7x10” blank soft-cover books*. These are lightweight, well bound, and portable. They are approximately \$20 for packs of three at most art supply stores. You can share with other classmates or buy all three yourself. If you are more comfortable with a different kind of book you may choose one, however it must be at least 7x10” and have blank, unlined pages. Remember you will be carrying this around, so weight is a factor.

CHOOSE A SITE:

You can select a natural or constructed site for your observation. There should be some movement or activity, either a branch swaying in the wind, or people going in and out of a doorway. Example sites include, parks, intersections, building lobbies, elevators. Clearly label each observation (site, date, time, subject etc)

OBSERVE (approx 10 mins)

Set your phones aside for at least 5 minutes (you can set the timer) Use *all of your senses* to observe your chosen subject matter. Try to open up beyond just the visual to *temperature, smell, sound, tactile experiences*. You can reset your timer if you need more time to experience your site. Take as long with this part as you can.

RECORD (approx 10 mins)

Spend time recording your observations, using language, drawing, diagramming, counting, mapping. You may also use tools such as weather apps, pollen etc. and some photography *in addition* to the above (not instead of).

CONSIDER /SPECULATE (approx. 10 mins)

With each of your observations think about the following questions: Who? What? When? Where? How? Why? and What if? Develop at least *one question* that could guide further investigation of your subject.

Note: You may find you do all three simultaneously. Give yourself ample time so that you be thorough with your observation.