

Final Paper

Your final paper is due December 5. Be prepared to present your findings to the class. Be ready to answer questions from the instructor and from your classmates. Your project should answer the questions: What are my findings? How course material and external sources help me come to these conclusions? What did I learn about ethnography and about this research topic that I did not know before? What did I learn about myself as an ethnographer by doing this project?

- **Final papers must be turned in on Moodle in pdf form by 5:00 pm on December 5, the last day of Ethnography for Design class.**
- **The grace period ends on Saturday, December 7 at 5:00 pm.**
- Any Final Paper that is turned in after December 7 at 5:00 pm but before December 12 at 5:00 pm will be assessed with a 10% late penalty.
- Final Papers and outstanding work will not be accepted past Thursday, December 12, at 5:00 pm without special permission by the instructor due to emergency circumstances.

Your final paper should have the following parts:

Word count: 1750 – 2250 words, which is about 7-9 double spaced pages. Do NOT include the references or annotated bibliography in your word count. The word count only refers to the essay itself.)

Introduction / first paragraph: What is your topic? Why did you choose this topic? What were your prior hypotheses or assumptions? Give the reader a brief preview of what you found. Did you find what you expected? Provide a clear thesis statement.

Methods: Choose at least THREE of your ethnographic exercises (interview, observation, artifact analysis, autoethnography exercise). Which exercises did you choose and why? Summarize your methods and the information that you gathered from these methods.

Report of findings: Answer your research question on the basis of your data. What two patterns were revealed? Did the exercises show the same findings or contradictory findings to what you read about in the class sources or outside sources? How did these patterns confirm or challenge your original expectations or assumptions?

Future Steps: What did you learn about the topic from these exercises? How did these patterns confirm or challenge your original expectations or assumptions? If the class had been longer, or your job depended on gaining more information, what would be your next steps? What kinds of additional information would you like to gather and why? Do not just say you would do more of something, such as “conduct more interviews.” Go deeper and talk about the categories of people you would interview and the new questions you would ask. Consider exploring how information from one exercise might now prompt

new investigation in another type of exercise. For instance, what would you observe now, on the basis of information that came to light in your autoethnography?

Personal statement (one paragraph - required): How did you feel about doing this ethnographic project? What delighted, upset, surprised, or puzzled you about it? What did you find personally easy to do? What was difficult? If you had to do it all over again, is there anything you would do differently? Why?

Final Paper Checklist

A successful paper will:

- Have at least 1750 words of text (not counting images, graphs, or **references**)
- Have the student's name, course name, assignment, and word count on the first page
- Be clearly written
- Introduce and frame what the report will be about in the first paragraph
- Quote and discuss at least 3 course concepts from readings or lectures - Show how course materials helped you reach your conclusions
- Quote at least 2 scholarly articles from outside the course – Show how your work engages in a scholarly conversation
- Draw on at least 3 of your ethnographic exercises
- Have an expanded future steps section if the exercises did not go as well as you had hoped. You can receive full credit as long as you can show that you've learned something about doing ethnographic work.
- Include an Annotated Bibliography with at least 5 citations (three from the course and two from outside the course). You may cut and paste this from your proposal.
- Include material from exercises and fieldnotes that help you illustrate your points (such as quotes, observations, images, etc.). This is an ethnography. It should be rich with data!
- Include a final paragraph of self-reflection (required).
- Draw on material from your exercises without simply cutting and pasting the exercises together. This paper should be a stand-alone culmination of your project that leads the reader on a journey. It should be logically constructed and weave in material from your exercises in a way that is framed and contextualized within a larger, compelling narrative.