John Halloran and Jason Arnold

We were able to catch the end of the Marquette Jazz Ensemble rehearsal. This first part of the observation time focused on a structured rehearsal. The conductor was in charge and was the source of all commands to the band. The conductor is the tempo setter, and gives cues for when specific instruments to come in and begin playing. He offers constructive criticism for how the musicians should be playing and the sound they should produce at specific moments in the piece.

After the rehearsal ended, one musician remained to practice on his own. This musician was a bass guitarist and he played with a Hofner Violin Bass through a Fender Combo Amplifier. His practice was very free and unorganized, more resembling a personal jam session. He explored different improvisation techniques. He would continue playing and rarely stop unless he made a rather noticeable mistake. He would play some recognizable melodies and rhythms that have already been published by contracted artists, but also make up his own. Since this was mainly an improvisation session with no other musicians, he had full control of the tempo and controlled exactly how his practice routine would work.

Perhaps some needs that could arise from this was more interaction. A personal time keeper but also at the same time recording ideas so you could hear back what you played. Interesting ideas come up and therefore should not be forgotten. It also allows for an actual personal critique to see what you personally struggle in terms of technique.