

## Entry Narrative

In this essay, you will write a description of what happened when you first entered the community you are studying. One element of this essay will be thoroughly describing (using “thick description”) the world you are investigating; another element of this essay will be identifying your role in the cultural scene you are entering.

Since your readers will not be in the scene with you, it is your job as an ethnographer to describe the scene in as detailed a fashion as possible. Pages 93-110 in your textbook should serve as a resource for you throughout your research process--especially the list of essential details on page 103. Also, Box 16 will help you approach description. Think about “thick description” and the five senses as you take notes and draft your entry. This should help you push yourself to create a detailed introduction to the community and/or setting for your reader. Give your reader a sense of being there not only through physical description of the place but also through description of the interactions and actions of the participants and your own interactions with them.

In addition to this description of your interaction with them, you will want to clarify who you are and what your perspective as a participant/observer is. Your response to Box 11 may play a part in this analysis of who you are in relationship to your community of study and may be the start of your collection of “reflective fieldnotes.” Awareness of positioning will also help you decide how to write about yourself and the community: first person? third person? back and forth between the two (as in the “Point of View” example, 113-115)? Who are you in relationship to them? (remember, your position/relationship may change as you study further)

These parts may be organized and presented in the way you think they will most effectively reach your reader and illustrate the community you are studying. Keep in mind that even in its “final” form that you hand in on the initial due date, the Entry Narrative won’t really be completed. You are still likely to want to revise it as you do more research—and certainly as you bring all the “parts” of your research and writing together into the completed, multi-part essay about the group or place/space you are studying.