FIELD NOTES
Duffy Community Partnerships

The purpose of these notes is to make observations about the dynamics of your site from a variety of perspectives: asking questions, finding correlations, speculating on the motive for and impact of various interactions.

Each week at least two pages (double-spaced word-processed or legible handwritten equivalent) are due at the start of class. You should print two copies of the notes. The first set is for the Coordinator to keep and share with Supervisors, and for possible publication (if publication is being considered, you will be contacted for permission). The second set is for written feedback to be returned to you. If you do not wish your notes to be shared, please indicate this at the top of each particular set. Each week’s notes are to include at least one of the following exercises—your choice, except when you are assigned an alternate project the week before. Try on different exercises from week to week. Creativity is welcome, but grammar, spelling and coherence count!

FIELD NOTE EXERCISE OPTIONS

An Overview
*Begin each entry by considering sights, sounds, smells, concerns, insights, doubts, snippets of conversation, fears, feelings, critical questions especially about yourself.
*Honesty is the most important ingredient.
*A journal is not a diary, nor is it a work log of tasks, events, times and dates.
*Write freely! You will probably want to make initial notes or more than one draft, so as not to be hampered with grammar and spelling at first.
*Write as soon as you can after your time on site to capture your impressions while fresh. They can be edited later into a coherent picture.

Use these exercises as a spring board for reflection to help focus your thoughts in different ways. Don’t simply answer the questions as if they are in a quiz.

1. **MIRROR (a clear reflection on the self)**
   What have I learned about myself through this experience? Do I have more/less understanding and empathy than I did before? In what ways do my experience shift my sense of self, my values, my understanding of community? How is my sense of vocation impacted? Does this experience change what I understand service or leadership to mean? How does this experience challenge stereotypes or prejudices I may have held? How does this experience challenge cultural and personal assumptions that I have held? Are there lessons to be learned from my site? Is my definition of success changing? What limits my ability to serve and be effective? What boundaries are being pushed? What resources do I draw on to do my work? What additional resources do I need? How are my ideals and philosophy changing?
2. **MICROSCOPE (makes the small experience large)**
   What happened? Describe a particular experience or interaction. Perhaps relay a verbatim conversation. Identify moments of failure, success, indecision, conflict, doubt, humor, empathy, happiness, frustration, hope, sadness. What did I do right? What do I wish I’d done differently? What would I have done if I had been in charge? How does this experience compliment or contrast with what I’ve learned in class/es? What did I learn as a result of this experience? What questions was I left with?

3. **WIDE ANGLE (makes the picture bigger)**
   Can I identify any underlying or overarching issues at my site? How do larger forces and influences in the community and culture play out here? What political/social forces are at work? How do global realities play out in my back yard? Cite specific examples. What additional resources might be accessed by my site? What different strategies might be employed? What additional allies or partnerships might be formed? Analyze how communication occurs and breaks down at the site. What do the texts from class have to say to my site? Reflect on your experience at your site in light of what is in the news—attach specific article or give a synopsis. What does the future hold for my site?