

Conducting & Writing Observation of an Infant

We will use a virtual observation as your observation of an infant. Please pick 1 video to watch

- www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDMrAYhzOdg&t=89s
- www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2RPmZpGQBE

and use this footage as your observation of an infant. Pretend this baby your Infant/ Family Case Study Child.

Your observation to be as detailed, descriptive and as non-judgmental (objective).

What to look for when watching the video:

- Where the observation takes place? Describe the space in detail. Who was present?
- What the baby look like – hair, skin, facial features, body type, and clothing? (if you have seen your Infant/ Family Case Study baby, you can describe them in detail)
- What the baby does, in general, during your observation?
- How the baby moves (please include all types of movements)?
- What the baby looks at, gaze at?
- What seems to attract the baby's interest? How can you tell?
- What toys, materials, and/or furniture the baby uses while you are observing? How?
- How the baby vocalizes, including cries, babbling, and using real words?
- What other ways the baby communicates, including facial expressions and gestures?
- How the baby interacts with people including you?
- What routines (eating, sleeping, toileting/ diapering, bathing, playing, transitions, etc.) you observe the family engage in? What happens during the routines? How does the baby react?
- Anything else you notice.

Try to notice and record scenarios. Try to capture the details of interactions between the baby and the environment, including the people in that environment.

Observation of an Infant Paper

~3 pages, type written, double spaced, standard 1" margins

In this 3-page paper, you will summarize what you observed to share what you saw and learned about the infant. This will build on your foundation of knowledge and information for your Commentary Paper. Use the notes from your observation to write a paper that had the following three sections:

- Section 1: Introduction
- Section 2: Objective, Sequential Narrative Summary of the Observation
- Section 3: Conclusion

1) Introduction

- Provide the following details about the observation:
 - Describe the setting of the observation.
 - Where did the observation take place?
 - Describe the physical space.
 - What furniture, materials, equipment were in the space?
 - How was the furniture, materials and equipment positioned/ arranged?
 - Who was present?
 - Describe the child.
 - How old is the child?

- Describe the child's physical appearance -- hair, skin, facial features, body type, and clothing.

2) Objective, Sequential Narrative Summary of the Observation

- Share a chronological narrative of the baby's actions during your observation.
- Start with the what happened at the beginning of your observation.
- Capture the baby's behavior, interactions and reactions in descriptive vignettes, or short stories. You should include 4 vignettes/ short stories of what the babies did, and how, from your observation. These vignettes/ short stories should be presented in order. They should be very detailed and describe the baby's behavior in detail.
- Use objective, non-judgmental language to describe the baby's actions, interactions, and reactions.
- Describe the baby's behavior and reactions using rich vivid details so the reader can picture the baby's actions.
- Close with what happened at the or close of the observation

3) Conclusion

- Answer the following questions in the final paragraph:
 - What did you learn about the baby during your observation?
 - What struck you from the observation, either while you watching the video or when you were writing your paper?
 - How does this observation connect to what you have learned in class? Make specific connections

ASSESSMENT Rubric (10 points)

TASK	NOVICE (0.5 point)	LEARNER (1 point)	COMPETENT (1.429 pts)
INTRODUCTION	The paper did not include a description of the setting or child	The paper offered vague &/ or unclear description of the setting &/or child	The paper included a thorough, description of the setting & child
CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE	The observation was not written in sequential narrative format	Some or part of the observation was written in sequential, narrative format	The observation was written in sequential narrative format
DESCRIPTION OF THE CHILD'S BEHAVIOR	The paper did not describe the child's vocalizations, behavior, or interactions with & reactions to their environment	The paper vaguely described some of the child's vocalizations, behavior, or interactions with & reactions to their environment	The paper thoroughly described the child's vocalizations, behavior, or interactions with & reactions to their environment.
OBJECTIVE LANGUAGE	The paper used subjective, judgmental language throughout.	The paper used some objective, non-judgmental language.	The paper used mostly objective, non-judgmental language.
USE OF DETAILS	The paper did not contain details.	The paper contained some vague details to describe the child's actions, reactions & interactions with their environment & people.	The paper contained rich, vivid details to describe the child's actions, reactions & interactions with their environment & people so the reader can picture the child.

CONCLUSION	The conclusion did not answer what was learned, was struck you or how the observation connected to class.	The conclusion vaguely answered what was learned, was struck you or how the observation connected to class.	The conclusion clearly & thoughtfully answered the questions outlined with meaningful & reflective responses.
CLARITY	The paper was unclear, disorganized & confusing.	The paper was vague, disjointed, &/ or hard to follow at times.	The paper was clear, organized & coherent.