

ANTH 2517 FA 2014

Assignment 2 Ethnographic Interview

1. Interview someone on their work life/career path. Focus on turning points, motivations etc. Ask yourself 'what made this person's career path interesting?'
2. Hint: Do more than one interview session. The first session is usually a bit more formal as the interviewer and interviewee get used to each other and this new 'relationship' particularly if you are interviewing someone you know. As well, you will come up with new questions/topics once you have collected the first set of data through the first interview.
3. To get started, use the reading assigned in class and any other information, to construct a list of interview topics as outlined in the idea of 'semi-structured' interviews. The interview can then be more conversational, but still stick to the topic of interest.
4. After the session, reflect on what you have learned and evaluate your list of topics. Add topics, modify them if you think there was a failure of communication, expand on what you think is interesting.
5. Conduct a second session. Reflect on your data again to decide if a third session is needed.
6. Write up should focus on analysis. Include an introduction and information on your methods (use a citation or two here to link to published methods in social-cultural anthropology). Then structure in the most appropriate way to explain your interviewee's career path.
7. 2-4 citations should be used and referenced appropriately. These should include some on methods, and may include some on the career of the person, or motivations or other topic that was a turning point in their life.

Submission:

- Write up – between 5 and 10 pages double spaced
- Appendices – permission form (or email if interview done by phone); list of topics or questions; transcript of interview sessions; notes (reflect on how you felt, what you decided to focus on in subsequent interviews)