

Crim 860 Assignment 8a

Observation

The general objective of this assignment is to give you an opportunity to conduct an observation in which you demonstrate that you can implement principles of design that are appropriate to whatever situation/context you choose to focus on, and can reflect on that experience in a manner that shows you understand the strengths and limitations of what you have done.

Any observation should be done in a public place and should not involve children unless you are related to them and have their parents' permission. I would suggest you decide to observe somewhere interesting on campus or in your neighbourhood. The assignment is not intended to be onerous; the total time you spend observing should be no more than, say, 2 hours. You should pay heed to the principles of observation that are outlined in the Cresswell (2016) reading that appears among the readings for November 24 on the course web page. That said, Cresswell's list should not be considered definitive of "the" correct way to do observational analyses, and principles of observation do not occur in a vacuum; you may well want to bring in principles and processes that we have discussed in other parts of the course if appropriate, depending on the site/people you decide to observe. You should submit two things to me in order to complete this assignment:

- (1) the field notes that you write during your observation session(s); and
- (2) a reflective analysis of what you have done. The latter will include a detailed description and evaluation of the choices you made when doing your observation, including consideration of the adequacy of Cresswell's orienting document, and a suggestion or two of how you might proceed if you were going to continue investigating whatever phenomenon you decided to focus upon during your observation.

Your reflective document should be no more than 1,500 words. The assignment is due on Dec.11.