

Class Notes Assignment, SP 713 IAP 2010

Observe and take notes during a class activity or observation. Ask questions of the people who are involved in the activity to help you follow what they are doing, thinking about and trying out. You might make diagrams about how something is being held or assembled or discussed. You might take photos or ask for photos from me or others.

Some aspects to consider as you are observing

Notice what goes on with the materials. For example, consider how the material that was taken up by the group at the beginning is modified, changed, substituted for, discarded, reexamined... What properties of the material seem most to be involved with what the group is doing? Are there properties that get in the way, or that stimulate the group to do or try something other than what they began with?

Notice what the participants are trying, looking for, improvising. Watch how the activity evolves. What goes on and changes in what the group is seeking to do, assemble or find out? Note how the participants contribute to each other, introduce techniques, ideas, observations, questions, confusions... Note moments when something that surprised them or was unexpected.

For the class, write up your notes about the activity (or part of it) to show how you saw it develop. You might describe, narrate, diagram, illustrate, outline... Invent whatever ways seem to express what you observed. You might add your own comments, observations, questions, confusions. Set these off (by parenthesis, font, whatever) from what you report.

Try to have your class notes by the next lab meeting of the class. Submit your notes to Stellar under the Class Notes Assignment. I have set up a feature of Stellar so that when you submit the notes online, all the students can read [and comment on] your notes online. [In order to allow this on Stellar, the due date must have expired. So all your submissions will be automatically be marked late.]

Either bring copies of your notes to the next lab, or ask me to do that for you.

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