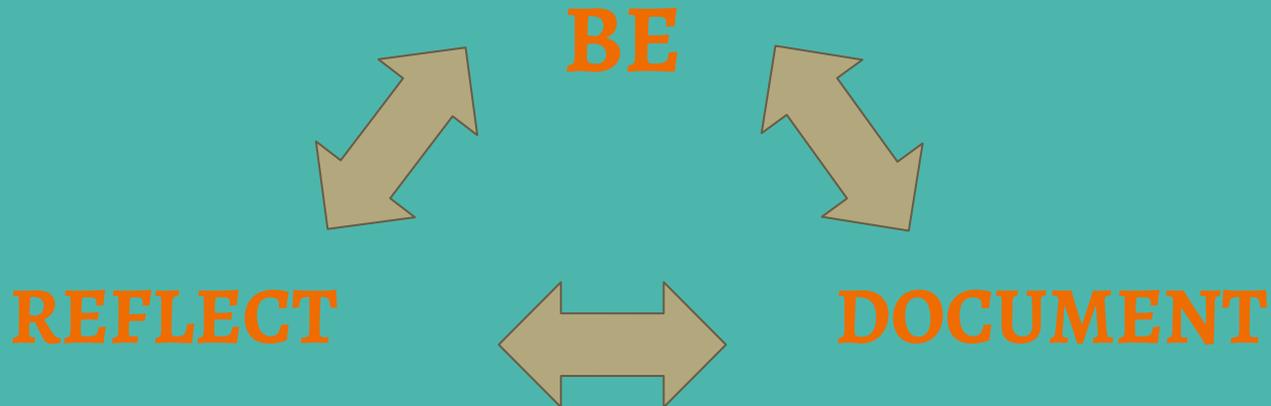

Field Experience 101

2018-2019



In the field, SJU pre-service teachers are expected to:

- *Be* participant observers
- *Document* what they see and do
- *Reflect* critically on their experiences



What does it mean to *be* a participant observer??

A Participant Observer:

Observes AND participates in a learning community

The learning community:

- *Includes* students, cooperating teachers, support teachers/staff, school staff, school administrators, parents, and anyone else who may be involved with the school
 - *Exists inside of and outside of the classroom walls-* in hallways, auditoriums, cafeterias, playgrounds/fields, parking lots, etc.
-

: **During field...**

Your job is to:

- GO...EVERY SINGLE WEEK.
- Observe
 - The classroom setup/environment
 - Teaching methods/lessons/practices
 - Interactions in (or outside of) the classroom
 - Student behavior(s)
- Participate
 - Build relationships
 - Get to know your cooperating teacher(s)
 - Help when needed or asked, but also volunteer and take initiative
 - Interact with students individually or in
_____ small groups

As a participant observer.....

YES:

- To smiling
- To enjoying this experience
- To sitting, standing, kneeling, crouching, clapping, singing... inside of and outside of the classroom
- To dividing your time by spending some of it looking at the whole environment and some of it conducting more targeted observations
- To helping/supporting your cooperating teacher(s)
- To asking thoughtful questions
- To engaging all students
- To supporting all students



~~YIKES:~~

- To frowning, scowling, eye rolling, etc..
- To sitting...the whole time...in the back...staring at a computer or cell phone
- To looking at only aspects of the environment required to complete your course assignments
- To ignoring and/or nagging your cooperating teacher(s)
- To asking thoughtless (or thoughtful) questions at inconvenient times
- To distracting students
- To giving all of your attention to only those students you “like”



How do I *document* what I see
and do during field??

To Document:

Jot → Jog → Journal

Jot to Jog

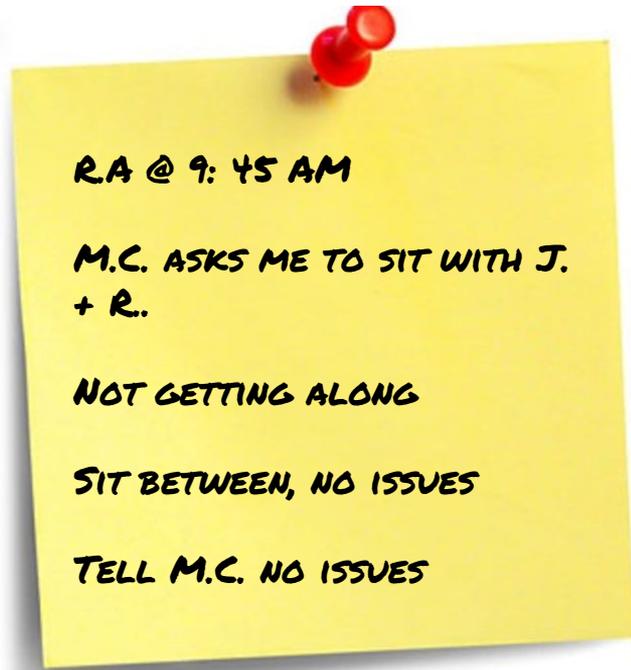
During field: *jot* down quick/short notes about what you are seeing and doing; these will *jog* your memory later

Jog to Journal

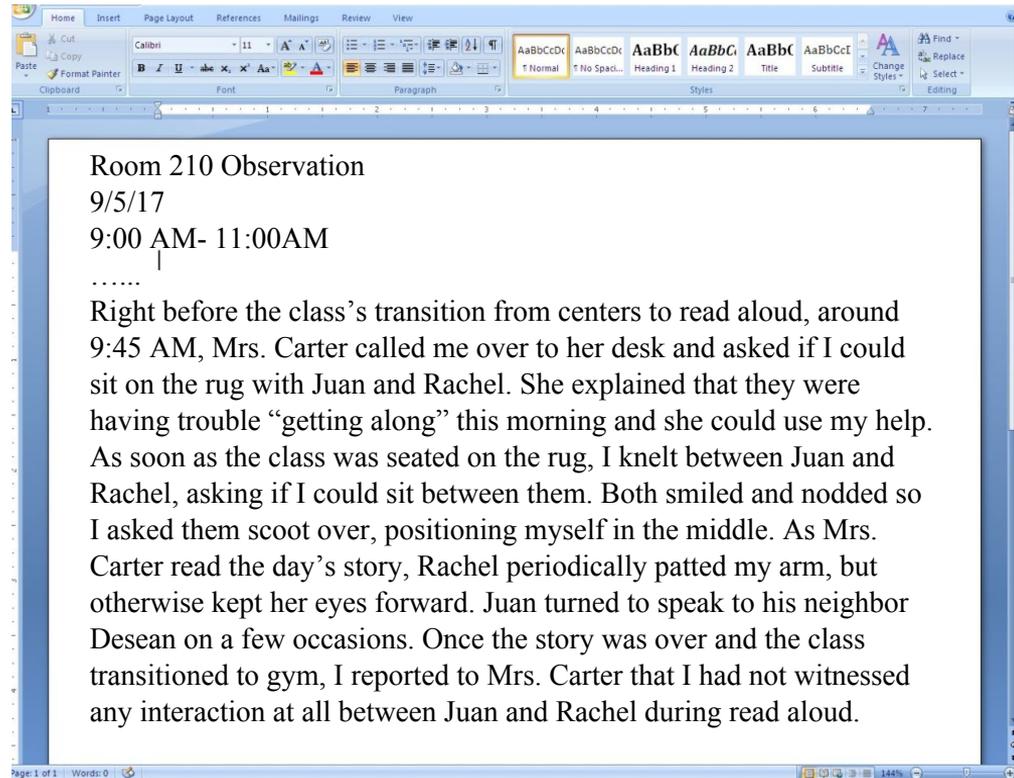
Within HOURS of field: review the notes you *jotted* down to *jog* the memories of what you saw and did that day; write or type more detailed comprehensive notes (your “field notes”) in a *journal*

What might documenting look like?

Jotting



Journaling



When documenting....

YES:

During field:

- To using a pen/pencil and sticky notes, a clipboard, a pocket-size notebook, index cards on a keyring, etc. to jot notes down quickly

After field:

- To keeping a physical or electronic “journal” for your detailed field notes
- To using the van time on the way back to start your field notes before finishing them later that day
- To keeping both sets of notes (the quick and the detailed) for future reference and reflection



~~YIKES:~~

During field:

- To using your phone to jot down notes... be present, stay present
- To relying only on your memory and/or making stuff up

After field:

- To not transferring your notes into any kind of a journal and/or making stuff up
- To waiting more than a few hours to write up your field notes
- To throwing away any of your notes...you never know when you'll need them



What is critical reflection and
why is it important??

Critical Reflection....

What it is
&
Why it's important

What?

- An *ongoing process*, not a one-time or isolated event
- Ties together what you are learning in the university classroom and what you are experiencing in the field so you can construct new knowledge and engage in new behaviors
- Requires examining the beliefs and assumptions you hold, which can feel uncomfortable

Why?

“We do not learn from experience...we learn from reflecting on experience.”

-John Dewey

In critical reflection....

YES:

- To having a field notes section *and* a reflection section of your journal
- To consistently making connections between field experiences and coursework and visa versa
- To taking the time to “sit with” your thoughts, feelings, questions, etc.
- To making critical reflection a routine practice
- To being honest with yourself by challenging your thinking, interrogating your assumptions, asking questions, and acknowledging what you don't yet know or understand



~~YIKES:~~

- To in no way distinguishing between what is a field note and what is a reflection
- To keeping the field in the field and to keeping coursework in the classroom
- To rushing through reflection because you need to turn something in
- To reflecting only when it's required or when you are told to
- To telling your professor what you think they want to hear...

