

“Down” and “Up” Drafting

Take one brief scene, performance, or event from your fieldnotes and practice writing it up three different ways based on the following questions:

What’s going on here? (FW pp. 438-440)

- How people and places interact
- How the researcher fits (or doesn’t fit) into the scene
- Details of setting, character, theme
- “value-terms”
- *By writing herself into the scene (looking into mirrors, etc.), Yolanda is able to focus on selective details and emphasize their importance to her own participation/observation.*

Where’s the culture? (FW pp. 440-443)

- Background information on the subculture
- Descriptions of artifacts, language, rituals
- Writing from inside the head of the informant by focusing on the artifacts, language, rituals
- *By narrating a story of the cowboy’s opening ritual, Heather captures his point of view even while using the third-person “he”.*

What’s the story? (FW pp. 443-445)

- Insider/Outsider perspective
- Transcribing and quoting to capture the insider’s perspective, voice, speech, etc.
- Using descriptive, active language to capture your own perspectives as a viewer
- Incorporating your own positioning, thoughts, ideas, reflections
- *In writing his piece, Pappi is like Chipper struggling to make the sewing right.*