

## **Observational Drawing Activity**

(taken from “Stretching” Exercises for Qualitative Researchers, by Valerie J. Janesick 2011)

**Purpose:** To observe and describe in rich detail an assortment of objects on a table for 5 minute writing increments and 10 minute drawing increments, twice.

**Supplies:** Pencil, line note papers, and drawing paper

**Problem:** To see objects from your position in the room

**Time:** Allow time to arrange objects. Sit for 5 minutes and write your observations about the still life from your position. Then continually draw for 10 minutes exactly what you see. Repeat.

**Activity:** Set up a table in the middle of the room so that you may view the table from multiple sides. Arrange at least 5 objects, each a different shape, texture, size, and color. Select any objects you wish (photos, coffee mugs, a fossil, stack of books, a globe, a shirt draped over a stool).

Begin your writing on this still-life with:

Observational Drawing (title)

By

Date

Time

Location

Divide your note paper lengthwise making two columns: The left side is for the first observational writing and the right is for the second time. You may also write things you think about during the observation, or questions that arise.

As you observe, pay attention to the following things:

- Note the setting and point of view
- Pay attention to shapes, reflection, texture, shadows, pattern, repetition, positive, negative space, overlapping, and overall composition. Look for details and relationships.

### Observational Drawing Activity Rubric:

Grading Criteria	Points Possible
Quality of description of still-life arrangement with a mix of vocabulary used in describing	3 pts
Drawing demonstrates close observational details with use of space, line quality, and shading	5 pts
Format followed the date, time, and location with proper division of left and right	2 pts
Reflect on the exercise: How did you approach the exercise in the first 5 minutes? The second 5 minutes? Did you do anything differently in the second observational drawing after you changed seating? What did you learn from this exercise? What was the most difficult? What do you need to work on to improve your observation skills?	5 pts
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>15 pts</b>