

“Deliberate Intentions”
Research Preparation
Due Monday, March 26th, 2012

Please complete the following multi-stage, research preparation assignment, addressing each section in order. Take a break between each stage to “collect” yourself and your ideas.

IMPORTANT: You can not successfully complete this assignment if you have not read or viewed the texts assigned this semester thus far.

With all that we have done this semester thus far, please begin to “map” your experience as you move through the following exercise. This activity will provide you with additional practical experience in the acquisition and development of working knowledge, as well as some skill in developing this working knowledge through the use of proper focusing questions at every stage of research. It should also give you some sense of the various ways that this particular trajectory is mirrored in the mapping that takes place within the research process in its entirety.

1. With Nicholas Carr’s *The Shallows* in mind, make a short list of some ideas that you might be interested in pursuing through several stages of research, especially in light of all that we have focused on throughout the first few weeks of the course. These are ideas do not have to be directly drawn from Carr’s text, but you should be able to explain to me how Carr has inspired them. Take advantage of the “double-entry interest inventory” model that is discussed in the *FieldWorking* text, which you have already put to good use in your first portfolio assignment.
2. Once you have put together an adequate list of these ideas, see what kind of working knowledge you can begin to acquire by developing appropriate and wide-ranging focusing questions in light of your interest inventory work above. Once you have spent some time on these questions, try incorporating some or all of the following terms into your overall thinking: ‘ethnography,’ ‘ethnology,’ ‘ethos,’ ‘ethics,’ ‘emic,’ and ‘etic.’ You might need to look into the meaning of some of these terms prior to doing so. Please record all of your ideas in a journal of some kind.
3. After completing stages 1 and 2, revisit and revise your initial list of ideas that you might be interested in pursuing in future research, especially in light of what you have focused on through your exploration of and with the terms that I have provided for you above. You may want to write a few quick sentences or speak to a trusted “colleague” to clarify your thinking at this point.

After you have completed your revised lists, please write **one page** about this experience, both describing what you have discovered about your subject matter through this exercise, and providing some preliminary assessment regarding your skill as a “researcher” at this point in the process. In other words, tell me what you did, how you came to your ideas, and what this has taught you about your own capacity to generate and pursue these in the future. If possible, please include specific references to texts or specific class discussions that have helped you in your account.

When you have finished writing this account, please write an additional paragraph or two proposing one or two areas of interest that you might like to pursue for a research paper. We will discuss these together in class on Monday.