Ethnographic Eyes: A Teacher's Guide To Classroom Observation
Synopsis

Whether you realize it or not, there is a hidden side of classroom life: everyday practices so ordinary and so routine that they often become invisible. The challenge to classroom observers is to understand and reveal these implicit patterns. For Carolyn Frank, ethnography provides the perfect lens through which to view them. Ethnographic Eyes extends ethnography beyond the work of university researchers and proves what an accessible and instructive observation tool it can be for inservice and preservice teachers. Frank draws on extensive experience in teacher education, demonstrating how ethnography can help you see beneath the surface of classroom life, gain new understanding of diversity, and recognize that difference can be a resource for community building. Along the way, you’ll learn how to record, analyze, and represent the particular kind of classroom culture that is being created. You’ll also discover how an ethnographic perspective can help you expand your cultural perspective and reflect critically on your practice. Teachers who are interested in taking their own ethnographic journeys and better understanding their students and communities will find all the guidance they need in this book. Professors interested in using ethnography with their preservice teachers will particularly appreciate the book’s theoretical framework and open-ended assignments.

Book Information

Paperback: 111 pages
Publisher: Heinemann (September 28, 1999)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0325002010
Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.3 x 9 inches
Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (3 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #151,225 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #99 in Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Education Theory > Experimental Methods #799 in Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Certification & Development #2979 in Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Instruction Methods
Age Range: 5 - 17 years
Grade Level: Kindergarten - 12

Customer Reviews
If you are an aspiring teacher, a teacher trainer, or an experienced classroom teacher, you will find Dr. Frank's presentation both highly informative and motivating. Dr. Frank successfully takes the reader into a sense of "being there" while opening our eyes to the reality of personal biases. A helpful and friendly feature about her style is her accessibility, i.e., I felt that Dr. Frank was on hand to offer clarification and annotated insights as a means to better equip me in my own observation.

This is a helpful guide on how to observe the "culture" of a classroom and write an ethnography. The author helps the reader become aware of how to put aside their own perspectives and see the implicit rules and structures that a teacher creates in his or her classroom.

This book was easy to read, I finished it in two sittings. It provides a lot of good information about truly observing a classroom's culture.

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