Developing the Introduction, Methods, and Context Sections

The opening sections of your researched ethnographic inquiry essay serve to bring your readers into your research and discovery findings and to help them understand how your research is situated in the context of the other research, your research process, and your research site. Use the guide below to plan your introduction, methods, and context sections.

Opening

I. How are you planning to "open" your essay? Why are you doing it this way? How does it offer an interesting way for your readers to understand the value of your research?

2. Tell me again, yes – again --, what your controlling idea and focus statement are. How might you reword your focus statement now that you know how you will open the essay? Can you find a way to transition from the opening to the controlling idea/focus?

Methods

- 3. In a method section, you need to describe both your research and analysis processes and explain why they work to provide answers to your research questions.
 - Describe how you conducted your primary research:
 - o describe the site,
 - o the participants,
 - o when and how you observed,
 - o how you took notes, conducted interviews, collected other data
 - Describe how you conducted your analysis of the fieldnotes
 - What was your process for finding key ideas? Themes?

Context

- 4. What do you need to tell your readers to provide enough background about your research site and about the ideas from your secondary source material so that the analysis and information presented in the body sections will make sense?
 - Background information on your research community, issue, culture, place (history, personal connection, social context)

• What important connections do you find between your research the most relevant or interesting ideas in the work of published authors. What do your readers need to know about those connections before they get to the body sections?