Field Notes Prompts

*Use these prompts to help you find and remember interesting aspects of your site. For the following quantify and qualify as applicable:*

1. Date, time, and place of observation
2. Weather conditions; temperature, and sky conditions
3. Objects: their names, size, and the distance between them
4. Humans: their age, gender, ethnicity and particulars about them: clothing, actions, interactions with site, ways they group up
5. Species:
   a. Flora: type and quantity
   b. Fauna: type, quantity, actions, and interactions
6. Sounds, colors, shapes, sizes, weight, density, quantity, smells, textures, and tastes
7. Map the distance between key objects and species. (Example: a sign and a person)
8. Visual perspective
   a. Observe and/or record photos and possibly video at different focal lengths: wide/panorama, medium close-up, tight close-up (telephoto)
   b. Alter perspective: find vanishing points; use height perspective; shoot the same subject from different angles
9. Interactions between “objects” and species
   a. Is there a dominant element that seems to dictate interactions?
   b. Which nonhumans seem to go unnoticed?
10. Use the modified version of the Method: GRAB analysis: look for gaps, repetitions, anomalies, and binaries (Rossenwasser and Stephen)
11. Use notice, focus and rank method (in brief notice something, focus and list aspects of it, and then rank those aspects in order of importance
12. What does this site ask you to assume? What assumptions about cultural norms seem in play in this site?
13. Who might you speculate, “owns” this site? (Who owns the property or pays for the site, and what might this mean?)
14. What biases, backgrounds, and connotative relationships seem to be invoked by the site’s representation of people and nonhumans (“objects,” plants, animals)?
15. What’s “the” (a) story here?
16. Jot your personal responses to the experience of taking field notes
17. Possibly write questions for yourself that you’d like to take up for further investigation