Short Assignment for

Educational Assessment
Education 315

Richard Mihans
Education Department

Introduction for Faculty Colleagues

The Assignment I Distribute to Students

EDU 315 – Educational Assessment
Preschool in Three Cultures

Assignment
New assignment

Genre
Informational Writing

Audience
Teachers in the public school system; fellow classmates; self

The Fit
This formative assignment takes place during 2 class sessions

You Will Learn
• how to create informal observational notes;
• how professionals use observational notes to assess and/or make evaluations;
• how assumptions about culture might impact assessment; and
• how having more context assists in revising assumptions.

Student Learning Outcomes
• After learning basic observational field note techniques, students will be able to generate observational notes while viewing Tobin’s Preschool in Three Cultures.
• Students will evaluate and revise (if necessary) their own assumptions of preschool practices from three different cultures (perspectives).
• Students will identify and articulate implications for educational assessment

Features of Assignment
Day 1
1. First, you will learn how to take basic observational field notes.

2. Second, we will learn how teachers make assessments from analyzing observations/experiences (anecdotal notes, context, conversations, etc.).

3. Third, you will view Tobin’s *Pre-school in Three Cultures* with no sound. During the film, be sure to take detailed observational notes on what they are observing.

4. Next, you will synthesize your own observational notes, finding common themes, and recording your interpretations of each culture’s philosophy for preschool education. This will take the form of a three-paragraph writing assignment (one paragraph per country represented in the film).

Days 2 - 3
5. After the above writing exercises are completed, you will again view Tobin’s *Pre-school in Three Cultures, this time with sound*.

6. Be sure to examine your original notes and writing assignments, in the context of any new understandings, from a second viewing of the film’s content.

7. Create a T-Chart, comparing and contrasting your assumptions based upon the reality of each situation.

8. Last, respond to this question: How did the second viewing change your understanding of the culture of preschool in the featured countries? How might a teacher’s assumptions influence her assessment practices? This should be 3 – 5 pages in length.

Criteria for Evaluation
Your responses will be graded individually.

• Your observational notes (20%)—completeness

• Informational paragraphs (30%)—synthesis, analyzing

• Final reflective paper (50%)—evaluating, analyzing