

ANTH 320/DEVS 321 Fall 2017

Small assignment #1: What kind of source is appropriate for the essay in this course?

Due: 18 September, 2017

This course focuses on the people involved in development processes, and thus requires you to pay attention to research on those people. Ideally, these sources will use rich first-hand material gathered by the researcher from the research subjects. The methods typically used to do this are termed “ethnographic.” They may involve open-ended interviews, participant observation, life histories, and so on. These methods are the basis of the discipline of anthropology, but are also used by political scientists, market researchers, sociologists, development studies researchers, among others. Look for evidence in the article that shows the author has met with and personally interviewed or observed the research subjects to get the information on which the article is based.

Task:

- 1) Review the definitions on the library’s website for Anthropology about Ethnography (<http://stfx.libguides.com/anthropology/ethnography>).
- 2) Identify an appropriate article from the academic resources available on the library’s electronic databases.
- 3) Locate the article’s description of the methodology used to gather evidence. Cut and paste this on a piece of paper, along with the full bibliographic citation for the article (see [http://stfx.libguides.com/ld.php?content\\_id=3538357](http://stfx.libguides.com/ld.php?content_id=3538357)) for proper referencing style.
- 4) Explain briefly why you see this methodological description as ethnographic.
- 5) Submit this piece of paper with your name on it in class on 18 September 2017.

Objectives:

- 1) to learn how to identify appropriate sources;
- 2) to prepare for the essay in this course;
- 3) to practice proper referencing style.

Example:

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Susan Vincent

Vincent, Susan

2012 Dimensions of Development: History, Community, and Change in Allpachico, Peru.

Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Vincent’s description of her methodology:

“This analysis of development in Allpachico focuses on experiences between 1984 and 2008, the period over which I have carried out anthropological fieldwork there. I have made twelve trips of between one and seven months, for a total of about two years. My methods have been anthropological: I have carried out participant observation; recorded events and the appearance of the community with photographs and video; regularly carried out censuses of the households in

the main village; reviewed community archives and documents; discussed life histories with older residents; and undertaken interviews among both residents and migrants to get specific comparative data. The people of Allpachico have been invariably generous with their knowledge, which is the basis of this book.” (Vincent2012: 6).

Explanation of why this is an appropriate people-based source:

Vincent spent an extended period of time in Allpachico, a small Peruvian community, totalling about 2 years over 24 years. This allowed her and the people of Allpachico to know each other well. She describes her methods as anthropological, including participant observation. The book includes vignettes of events she observed and quotations from the people. Thus, this book is based on first-hand information gathered from the research subjects.