Considering Qualitative Evaluation

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Overview

Talk 1: Setting the stage: qualitative
Talk 2: Observation as a skill

**Activity 1: Practicing observation**

Activity 2: Interviewing 1
Activity 3: Interviewing 2

Talk 3: Interviewing as a skill

**Activity 4: Interviewing 3**

Panel: open discussion

Talk 4: In summary – next step analysis
Taking a pencil for a walk
from Paul Klee
Paul Klee’s
Taking a pencil for a walk

Teaches 3 things

1. About range in line drawing variations
2. About observing
3. About critique

A repeatable exercise

- You always learn no matter how many times you have done it
Paul Klee’s
Taking a pencil for a walk

Set up - you need

1. A pencil (we have some - pens will do)
2. A piece of blank paper (we have some)
3. A surface to draw on – on a book, on your laptop, …
Paul Klee’s
Taking a pencil for a walk

Getting started
1. Touch your pencil to your paper
2. Though you will move your pencil, you will keep it in contact with your paper for the whole exercise
3. Listen to the story and move your pencil in response to what you hear
Paul Klee’s
Taking a pencil for a walk

The story has stopped
1. Turn to your immediate neighbor
2. Look at your pencil walks
3. Take turns describing to each other what you see
4. Consider all things (wobblyness, vigor, tension, emotion, line quality, humor, sketchiness, …)
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• Questions?
• Discussion?
• Comments?
Observation Techniques

Very little written about what to observe
All factors
- What is said
- All physical factors
  - Posture
  - Expressions
  - Hand actions
  - Etc.
- Any ambience
- Any emotions
- Levels of observation – leads back to self as lens
Observation Techniques

observational records
- unobtrusive
- as observations occur
- avoid note taking impact
- minimize the time gap (memory drops off rapidly)
- Include setting
  - description of the physical setup,
  - the time,
  - who is present, etc.
- Drawing maps of layouts and activities useful

Observation Techniques

- include the overt and covert in activities and communications.
  - body language
  - gestures, especially if it gets understood and acted upon, is just
  - careful of grey area where extent of communication unclear
- include the positive and negative.
  - Frustrations
  - difficulties
- good note taking habits – can lose important notes on back of another
- be concrete
- distinguish between
  - verbatim accounts
  - paraphrased and/or remembered.