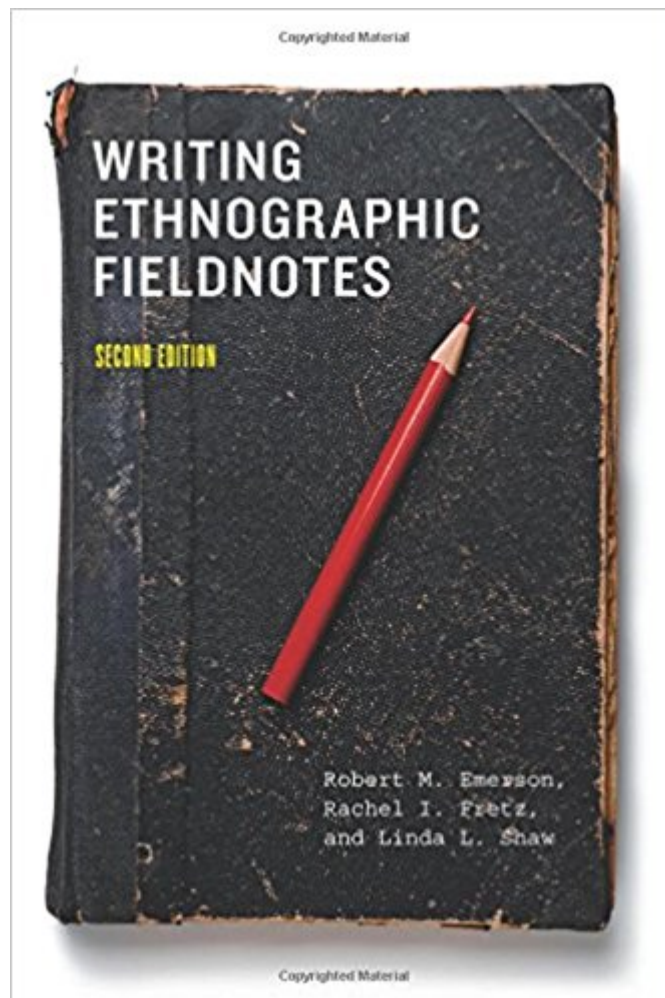




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# Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes, Second Edition (Chicago Guides To Writing, Editing, And Publishing)



## Synopsis

In *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*, Robert M. Emerson, Rachel I. Fretz, and Linda L. Shaw present a series of guidelines, suggestions, and practical advice for creating useful fieldnotes in a variety of settings, demystifying a process that is often assumed to be intuitive and impossible to teach. Using actual unfinished notes as examples, the authors illustrate options for composing, reviewing, and working fieldnotes into finished texts. They discuss different organizational and descriptive strategies and show how transforming direct observations into vivid descriptions results not simply from good memory but from learning to envision scenes as written. A good ethnographer, they demonstrate, must learn to remember dialogue and movement like an actor, to see colors and shapes like a painter, and to sense moods and rhythms like a poet. This new edition reflects the extensive feedback the authors have received from students and instructors since the first edition was published in 1995. As a result, they have updated the race, class, and gender section, created new sections on coding programs and revising first drafts, and provided new examples of working notes. An essential tool for budding social scientists, the second edition of *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes* will be invaluable for a new generation of researchers entering the field.

## Book Information

Series: Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: University Of Chicago Press; 2 edition (December 5, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0226206831

ISBN-13: 978-0226206837

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 43 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #8,207 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in Books > Politics & Social

Sciences > Social Sciences > Research #29 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences >

Anthropology > General #37 in Books > Textbooks > Reference > Writing Skills

## Customer Reviews

"Ideal for the novice field researcher trying to muddle through the messy job of recording experiences." (Harvard Educational Review, on the first edition) "I find [this book] pervaded with such ontarget common sense about the ethnographic enterprise, and in particular with strategies to

introduce this method to new recruits, that I recommend it highly to all who teach fieldwork."  
(Contemporary Sociology) "There is a tremendous amount of good advice for anthropological ethnographers in this book." (American Anthropologist) "A wonderfully instructive and useful piece of work. It will prove to be of considerable assistance as a text in both graduate- and undergraduate-level courses." (Journal of Contemporary Ethnography)"

Robert M. Emerson is professor emeritus in the Department of Sociology at the University of California, Los Angeles. He is the author of *Contemporary Field Research: Perspectives and Formulations*, now in its second edition. Rachel I. Fretz is a lecturer in the Writing Programs unit at UCLA. Linda L. Shaw is professor in and chair of the sociology department at California State University, San Marcos.

*Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*, 2nd Edition, was a major asset in providing me the necessary knowledge and skills required for writing, editing, and publishing a successful dissertation. I was capable of following accepted approaches to qualitative social research and applying them in a manner that was significant in writing my fieldnotes.

I wish they talked less about grounded theory and more about applying theoretical frameworks and a priori propositions in the analysis section. Otherwise, super helpful.

Very dry read but it gets the point across.

Great

This book is a guide that works with the beginning ethnographer to build their research skills. The authors employ techniques to ensure the reader isn't only learning the method, but also helpful tips for coping with difficulties. I found their reassurance that doing ethnography is a craft to be personalized and modifying very refreshing for a how-to book.

Fantastic book for those who need help with their writing of fieldnotes! My field journal is now so much useful than before!

Excellent book for anyone heading into the field. Read before doing fieldwork in sub-Saharan Africa

this past summer. Was helpful and informative!

This is both an academic guide and a practical advice book. It is useful even for beginners. It focuses in fieldwork, and do not go deep in theoretical concepts. It is useful as a daily work guide,

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