**Observation Report Worksheet**

(6 PAGES MAX, plus photo/sketch attached)

*Type responses directly onto this form, single-spaced*

**Preserve numbering & prompts, but delete unused spaces**

***50 points for completion & review—NO PARTIAL CREDIT***

Name of site: _________________________  Event: __________________________________________

Day & date: ___________________________  Exact times you were on site: ________________________

Person interviewed: _________________  Interview time, length & place: ______________________

Before or after your site visit, for each of the topics below, generate a list of questions to ask yourself &/or others while at your site &/or interviewing a participant. Then during & following your visit, answer those questions to the best of your ability, focusing as much as possible on observable sensory details & words. IMPORTANT: start thinking about your questions a few days before your visit; you may want to draw from the “Glossary of Foundational Concepts” (the green sheet).

**A. Practice Inspiring Reflection**

(i) Articulate 5-8 questions about the way(s) & the extent to which objects, actions & words used for practice inspire participants’ thoughts & feelings about the sacred.

Things to include: symbolic objects/images, implements used, names or words you recognize being repeated, rhythms & melodies, translations (printed books or obtained from interview)

For example: “What exactly do the Laotian monks do to bless the food brought to them by the laypeople, and what invisible presence does he experience while doing this?”

CAUTION: *AVOID* questions like “what is the meaning of X?” or “what does Y represent?” that assume there is ONE meaning/explanation and thus obscure diversity of interpretations.
(ii) Articulate 3-5 questions about the way(s) & the extent to which the spatial arrangement of people in the worship space inspire thoughts & feelings about the sacred.

Things to include: features of the building & worship space, number & features of people who attend, distinguishing marks of specialists vs. laypeople

For example: “Where do different nuns stand in the chanting hall, in what ways do they move about the hall, and how does their position and movement make them feel?”

(iii) Articulate 2-3 other questions you have (&/or that you imagine the audience of your report might want to have answered) regarding the practice you observed.

(iv) Number and then answer the above questions based on the evidence of what you saw & heard, attaching at least one SKETCH OR PHOTO to address questions in A(ii). Attribute all perception of unseen presence either (i) to yourself OR (ii) to someone you spoke with. (IMPORTANT: record emotional responses &/or evaluative judgments in C below.)

B. Reflection Heightening Engagement in Practice

(i) Articulate 3-5 questions about thoughts & feelings that people you observe at the site seem to be working with to heighten or intensify engagement in practice.

(ii) Articulate 3-5 questions about thoughts & feelings that the person you interview work with to heighten or intensify engagement in practice.

Things to include: non-verbal signs, facial expressions, side conversations, direct quotes

For example: “what does X hold in mind when holding incense and bowing to Amida Buddha?”
(iii) Articulate 2-3 questions about the way(s) & extent to which people gathered at your site say that they reflect about authoritative sources to heighten/intensify engagement in practice.

Things to include: specific titles, translations (from printed books or explained orally in interview), familiarity with assigned sources discussed in class

For example: “What Tibetan texts has Y heard about or read that informs the way she visualizes Avalokiteshvara during the meditation?”

(iv) Articulate 2-3 other questions you have (&/or that you imagine the audience of your report might want to have answered) regarding the thoughts & feelings of people you observed.

(v) Number & then answer the above questions based on the evidence of what you saw & heard, referring explicitly to details from some text assigned in class &/OR received and translated at the site, and providing at least two DIRECT QUOTES from your interview. (IMPORTANT: record emotional responses &/or evaluative judgments in C below.)

C. Outsider’s Perspectives on Practice & Reflection

(i) Articulate 2-3 questions about thoughts & feelings YOU experienced, whether spontaneously or intentionally, while observing the event and listening to your interviewee.
Things to include: your curiosity, your upbringing, other [or lack of?] experience with religions

For example: “What was I most interested in?” “How did my love of Church/alienation from my Christian upbringing influence what I payed attention to?”

(ii) Articulate 3-5 questions about the way(s) & extent to which what you observe at the site and hear in the interview resemble AND differ from practices and reflection about practice documented in one of **ETHNOGRAPHIC SOURCES** listed on the course content site, which should describe modern Asian Buddhists belonging to the same branch of tradition.

Things to include: objects, actions, words, locales or spaces, specialists vs. laypeople, thoughts & feelings described in one of the assigned primary sources.

For example: “To what extent does the Zen meditation observed in Sacramento resemble that of the modern Japanese women described by Sallie King?”

(iii) Articulate 2-3 other questions you might have ( &) that you imagine the audience of your report might want to have answered) regarding the variations in practice & reflection.

(iv) Number & then answer the above questions based on the evidence of your independent reflection and reading, citing material from at least THREE (3) SEPARATE PAGE #S for C(ii).
**ANALYSIS OF PARTS A-C & PLANNING FINAL PRODUCT**

- Review the introductory on-line essay, "Essential Elements of Religion" & then summarize & cite your findings in A-C of this worksheet by answering the questions below.

  **If you prefer you may *use a sketch or diagram* to address these questions.**

  • Overall, how does the practice of the Buddhist site you visited appear to inspire the thoughts and feelings of people in that community? (Refer to details in sections A & C(i).)

  • How do the thoughts & feelings of people in the Buddhist community you visited appear to heighten their engagement in practice? (Refer to details in section B & C(ii).)

- Describe (100-150 words) how you will structure your final product, (sequence of parts, use of narrative or visuals, etc.) to emphasize the mutual influence of practice & reflection in religious life in representing what you observed at the site & heard in your interview.

- **[After peer review, WRITTEN ON BACK:]** Explain which of the comments you received from your reviewer seem most useful for creating the final product; cite sections of the ORW by number/letter (e.g., A(ii), C(iii)). Describe also any omissions and/or inaccuracies noted from your own rereading your work, and "what you plan to do about them".