

NIGER  
COMMUNITY PLACEMENT  
FR 342 (fall) FR 343(spring)

There are two pieces of written work associated with your placement: a 'log book' or journal and a final paper. These are intended to allow you to account imaginatively and analytically for your placement experience. Whatever the size of the organization or site where you are placed, and the role you have within it, you are in a special position to combine practical experience with academic analysis. Use your written work to help you make your placement an intellectually challenging and rewarding experience, to give you a base from which to learn as much as you can, not just about your specific placement, but about Nigerien life, work, and culture.

### THE LOG BOOK

You should keep a log book of your placement experience as a structured way of gathering data. All entries should be dated. The data may include some or all of the following:

- a DESCRIPTION of the organization – its role and function; management structure; finances; personnel; aims and objectives.
- an OVERVIEW of how your organization or site fits into the general scene (e.g. if you work for an NGO, how does it assist Niger in fulfilling development objectives?).
- an ACCOUNT of the work you are involved with – writing specific notes on what you are doing but placing these in the context of your goals and objectives for your placement; label each entry with that day's date, and, if relevant, where you were that day (if not at your usual location).
- written NOTES from meetings you attend, interviews you conduct, or discussions you have with co-workers (formal or informal, but always related to your placement); give a full description of the time and place of these meetings/interviews and who else was there (including each person's relationship to or position within your placement).
- Written NOTES from any documents or books relevant to your work (include a full reference of the source).
- periodic REFLECTIONS about the work you are doing, how the organization is strong and how it is weak, observations about the interpersonal functioning of the organization, etc. Support these summary statements and examples and watch for further confirmation or reconsideration as the term goes on. Do not be afraid to change your mind about any of your earlier summary statements. Just say what made you change your mind and/or why you think you had your earlier impression. For the purpose of the log book, demonstrating the process of your learning is as important as what you actually learn about the organization/placement.
- do NOT include purely personal thoughts or activities (e.g. "Met my roommate for lunch today") unless they impact on your placement and you tie them coherently and specifically together.

## STRUCTURE

It is important to develop, early on, a structure for all this information. Make liberal use of headings. Clearly indicated in what context you are including each piece of information. Do not just go on and on, page after page, with the same style of writing. It is also important to make frequent entries into your log book at regular intervals (at least every week but after every time you work on your placement would be even better). Do NOT try to recall everything at the end of each month and CERTAINLY not at the end of the semester!

## PRESENTATION

You may want to use a loose-leaf file or notebook so that you can add things at a later date. If you use a bound or spiral notebook your presentation will probably be chronological so make sure your headings are clear. Remember that a good presentation is essential. Periodically students may be asked to read passages from their logs to the group. Your placement supervisor has the right to request your log book at any time during the semester.

## SUMMARY/ANGLE PAPER (2000-3000 words)

The log book helps you structure your placement experience so that during the semester you can select a particular theme or angle for your summary paper. You will have an opportunity to discuss your theme/angle with your placement supervisor during a group meeting or individual conference so that your summary paper will have a clearly stated question or subject. The basic principle is to develop one aspect of your placement in greater detail. The written work should complement and develop your placement experience by focussing on one small aspect or issue.

For the summary paper you must select a topic arising out of your placement that seems important to you in the understanding of the organization in which you are working, and merits further inquiry. This could be a problem that has arisen during your placement, a decision that the organization has taken in which you have been involved or which you have observed, a government policy or decision that impacts in some way on your organization, or your reflections upon the nature of the organization, the way it operates, and how it fits into the 'larger picture.'

The summary paper will then be your account of the factors in the situation, your assessment of the way in which the situation was dealt with, and your comments and reactions to the situation itself and the way it was handled/dealt with. You have great latitude in choosing the subject of your summary/angle paper and within these broad guidelines you should 'follow your heart' and write about something that interests you. The paper should be approximately 2000-3000 words in length. It can be written in your notebook, at the end of your log. Ideally we are looking for more than 'diligence' in fulfilling community placement requirements. The best work will indicate increased 'awareness' of oneself or of an issue or of a 'micro-community' within Niger. This increased 'awareness' will be a result, at least in part, of the community placement experience.

You should continue to keep your log book for gathering data specifically related to the theme of your summary/angle paper, as a source of detail and examples for inclusion in your paper. At the end of your placement your log book and paper will be submitted to your placement supervisor. It is possible that quotes about your experience, as detailed in your log and/or paper will be cited (anonymously) in advertisements about this program. If you do not want to be considered for citation, just include a note on the front page of your log before handing it in to the placement supervisor.

The community placement supervisor will make an interim reading of your journal while you are on your international trip. The morning of your departure leave your journals on the dining room table or with the day guard. Comments and suggestions furnished by the community placement supervisor will help keep you on track and provide early feedback. You will not receive a grade at this point but non-submission of notebooks is not an option. Late assignments will not be accepted.

You may write your log book and summary paper in English or French. Students from Georgetown, however, are strongly encouraged to submit all written work in French, if possible.

#### PLACEMENT GRADING

Log book	40%
Summary/angle paper	40%
Placement supervisor report	20%

A FEW HINTS [profit from the mistakes of those who have gone before you] ☺

Any placement is better than no placement. Do not take too long looking for the 'perfect placement' By the time you find it the semester may be over!

Your placement should be just that, a placement, someplace with someone (e.g. at the National Museum with Nanou, a leather artisan, or at the Pediatrics Ward with Mariama Moussa). An independent research project is NOT a community placement.

If you cite reference works in your angle paper, include a bibliography.

The placement supervisor expects you to ask for his/her intervention a/o assistance if you need it. We are here to help and facilitate your experience. We will let you work independently but are available whenever you need us.

The placement journal is FOR YOU. You may be writing quickly, before you forget your experiences. There may be misspellings or words crossed out. That is fine. Your angle paper, however, is another story. Write/type it neatly and carefully and proofread your work. Hand in a paper you are proud to put your name on (and never end a sentence a preposition with...!) ☺

If you begin a placement in one place and, for whatever reason, switch to another placement, please have some sort of ‘closure’ with your original placement. Stop by and tell them your plans have changed, or, at the very least, call them or drop off a note. We do not want to ‘burn our bridges’ because we count on some of these sites year after year after year.

Visiting each other’s placements is a wonderful way to broaden your experience here.

Go to it and have a good time!

### RECENT COMMUNITY PLACEMENTS

National Museum, cooperatives (teaching English to artisans, apprenticing yourself to an artisan, product development, brochures in English, etc)

Illia Addoh 73-43-21; developing/expanding the museum website – Kouroundou Issa

ACMAD/UNPD (rural radio)

M. Boulaya at ACMAD 72-31-60/ M Djilali Benamrane at UNDP 73-21-04/09

Société Internatioanle de Linguistiiques (SIL)

Christian Grandouiller (linguistics) 72-50-24

Notre DameOrphanage

Soeur Marie-Noëlle et Soeur Brigitte-Marie

BP 12661 (Bani Fandou II)

73-81-24 (play with/help care for young children)

English Language Program (American Cultural Center)

Patricia Alio 73-29-20 (English[EFL] teaching assistant)

ANDDH (human rights organization)

Khalik Ikhiri/Ibrahim 73-22-61

Cours Voltaire (private nursery school)

Mme Koné 75-26-98

Editing translation of Nigerien History Book

Moussa Djibo (s/c ELP 73-29-20)

Lycée Issa Korombé

Amina Kaza (contact person)

(AIDS discussion group with high school students)

Lycée Issa Korombé

Assoumi Boubacar (s/c ELP 73-29-20)

(assisting in Nigerien high school English class)

National Hospital Noma Ward

Leo Simbona or Mariama

Play with children recuperating from and awaiting from facial surgery

National Hospital Pediatrics Ward

Mariama Moussa or Dr. Degbey

help out however possible, talking to mothers, weighing babies, running errands

