Hints for Creating Usable Field Notes

**Field Notes:**

- Should be written immediately after the interview.
- Include: names of narrator and interviewer, date, time, location interview took place, language in which interview was conducted, and a list of ephemera materials.
- Describe how and why narrator was selected.
- Include a description of interview itself:
  - Describe the setting. Were there other people present? Where there any important events that happened prior to, during, and/or after the interview?
  - Please include your honest reflections on whatever dynamics occurred during the interview.
  - Share as much of your own feelings/thoughts as possible.
  - Talk about the interview environment, that is, describe the room, where you sat, where the narrator sat, what was on the walls, tables, etc.
  - Was there anything discussed that didn’t make it on tape that might be of further use to a researcher? (BEWARE of potential slander and libel here and the right of privacy!)
  - Included in the important events should be any technical issues, e.g., phone calls, interruptions, odd recording noises, etc.
  - These should be useful AND reflective.