

DIRECTED

STORYTELLING

As mentioned previously, there are times and environments when it will not be possible for students to conduct direct shadowing or observation techniques.

In these instances, directed storytelling is a great way to elicit the richness of direct observation.

Within this technique, students guide the person through telling a story related to a moment of particular interest.

DIRECTIONS:

Have the students decide upon an instance or situation that would be of interest to them. For example, the students could be interested in a time when the person was the happiest at work, when they were the most frustrated, or when they felt the most overwhelmed.

Afterward, the students should form this focus into a prompt for the participant. This could be something like, "Tell me a story about a time when you felt extremely happy and satisfied at work".

Guidance from the students throughout the storytelling process should be provided. Guiding questions during the story should take the form of who, when, where, what and how type questions.

This technique is especially effective if students audio or video tape it. If students do decide to audio or video tape the conversation, they should always ask for the participant's permission before doing so.

