

Draft #1

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Test of the Teeth: Assimilating into a Dentist's Office

Introduction: audience attention grabber!! short bio and what the paper is about (thesis) also describe the background of the assignment and the job shadowing

Going to the dentist can be a stressful endeavor, especially if you don't brush your teeth! It can be even more stressful if you are visiting for an interview or as an intern. Assimilating into any workplace is difficult. With the high competition rates to get into graduate school and the jobs afterward, dentistry is no exception. As someone who aspires to be a dentist, it is necessary for me to observe the environment and ask questions to better acquaint myself with my future workplace. I did this by job shadowing a local dentist at his office.

P1: describe how the office counts as a discourse community using Swales' model define

Discourse and discourse, primary and secondary, genre

When observing the office, it was clear that all the people there worked together as one unit, each knew their job and how to do it, and even other's job titles and duties. Swales gives 6 criteria that a group must satisfy in order to be considered a true discourses community. A discourse community is ...().These criteria are: (LIST THEM)

1. The goal of the office is to assist people with their oral hygiene, and to correct dental problems (if any).
2. The methods of intercommunication include verbal interactions, written notes, and meetings (I have not yet had a chance to visit the office yet so the exact methods could vary; these are speculated).
3. Members give and receive feedback through patient interaction.
4. The office is open specific times of the day and on certain days of the week, and the people who work there are present in the office consistently based on their individual work schedules.
5. The lexis used is scientific, and cannot easily be understood by the general public.
6. There are different levels of experience and authority within the office.

This is why I think that the office I attended was, in fact, a discourse community. A discourse community needs to communicate through different genres, and I noticed in my visit(s) that these are definitely utilized. Some of the tools the dentists use are quite loud, and so the doctor and his assistant would sometimes just use motions to indicate they wanted a specific object. There also were patient charts that indicated what teeth were being worked on. The lexis used included the names of these teeth and the different positions that cavities could occur. While some words like crown and filling can be understood by the public, others cannot. You probably did not know that the lingual side of your tooth is the part that touches your tongue (linguistics=different “tongues” or languages).

P2: talk about the discourse and what other work has already been done on it; introduce your research questions, claim a niche; and how you plan to acquire the results

My research questions include:

Due to the competitiveness of the field, are new members more likely to be ignored and used than accepted and appreciated?

Do the different positions in the setting have different hierarchies of power based on experience, or assertiveness?

I planned on acquiring the results of these questions by interviewing several occupants there with different job titles, and giving out a short survey to most of the staff. I also planned on documenting my feelings of “assimilating” into the office and if I notice any hierarchy of leadership or power within career field.

P3: talk about the goals of the study, the process of what you have done (interviewing and experiences) and methodology

The goals of this study were to answer the research questions mentioned above and also gain some experience in the job field I someday wish to occupy.

I printed off 20 surveys but only ended up distributing seven. I also only ended up interviewing one person, but I added some side questions into the interview that I thought might yield interesting results.

(HAVE NOT VISITED A SECOND TIME TO ACQUIRE MORE RESULTS)

P4: Talk about the results of the study, answer your survey questions, Make a graph and put it into the paper (from the survey results) and reference it in the text

In hindsight, I failed to realize that leadership and authority can be influenced not only by who is more assertive or good at their job but also by how long the occupant has been working at that

specific place. Their prior experience at other locations could also play a role. I probably should have added “years working at this career” and “years at this facility” as questions in my survey.

Conclusion: Sum up the results and what was obtained from the study

Appendix: Put a copy of the survey and the interview questions here, make sure to reference them in the paper!!

Survey Questions:

Occupational Title:

How many hours a week are you in the office?

On a scale from 1-10 (10 being the highest), how much authority would you say you have in the office?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

On a scale from 1-10 (10 being the most difficult), how hard was it to assimilate into this work environment?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Thank you!!

Interview Questions:

1. Is there a hierarchy of authority within occupations in the office?

IF YES:

A. How would you explain this hierarchy?

B. Who has the most leadership/ is “in charge”?

- 2. What was your first day in the office like?**
- 3. How long did it take for you to feel like a member of the workplace community?**
- 4. What are some struggles you overcame throughout that process?**
- 5. Do you have anything to add that you think would be important to know?**

Thank you!!!