Informal Environments Observation Worksheet – Homework

For full credit, answers should include detailed descriptions and examples.

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What institution did you visit?

1. Is there an educator presenting the exhibit or activity? If so, how does he/she get the visitors to engage with it? If there is no educator present, describe generally how the visitors engaged with the exhibit.

2. How do visitors of different ages interact differently with the same exhibit/activity? Briefly describe how two different groups of visitors interacted with the exhibit/activity. (Be sure to use examples in your description.)

3. Use a watch to time how long five visitors interact with one exhibit. What does this tell you about learning at informal science education institutions as compared to a classroom?

4. Watch a group of visitors interact. Write down a short exchange of dialog. What was the character of the conversation? Who was doing most of the talking? Who's asking the questions? Who's offering information and explanations?

- 5. Complete two or more of the following prompts about your experience as a visitor:
 - a. What would have helped you to be more engaged with the exhibit or activity?
 - b. What did you find particularly effective about the exhibit or activity, or educator with whom you interacted?
 - c. What suggestions would you have for the educator that would have made the interaction more effective?