

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE FIRST PAPER
FYS 25

This exercise is based upon your experience in the field. This is not to be a formal paper, but instead a specified list of thoughts, ideas, and questions as described below. There is not a single “right” answer. Rather, we will be concerned with whether you are on a right track or a wrong track. The structure and content of the presentation is described below.

1. You should begin by describing the general question or questions that you were trying to address by conducting a preliminary survey. How would you have responded to someone who asked you “Why are you doing this?” Such a statement would be your thesis (or theses) statement. This part of the project should be one (or at most two) paragraph. It is intended to let the reader know where you are heading with the rest of the project.
2. The second section should describe the design of the experiment that you conducted to gather data on the distributed sherds out in the field. This can be done in a brief paragraph.
3. This section of your report should be a *list* of meaningful questions concerning the actual process of gathering information. These question will in large part be based upon your experience having gathered the data according to the experiment described in (2) to answer the questions raised in (1). The questions can be directed at either the design of the experiment or the purpose (question) of the study.
4. The last section of this report is to *list* changes that you would make in your study design (or general study questions) if you were to repeat the experience. State both the changes and the reasons for each change. Such things can include equipment, time, and organization.

The purpose for this report is to help you start thinking about the types of issues you should be addressing in the experiment you will soon design, and also your final project. You have no control over the data that have been gathered from the excavations of your final project, but you can ask questions of the data gathered, the way the data were gathered, and interpretations give to those data. This field experience was designed to provide you with some first hand experience so that you will be able to suggest modifications to the methods archaeologists have used in the past.