

BRR FIELD TOOL 03 • EDITABLE PDF

Field Notes + Observation Record

A place for the details that disappear first when nobody writes them down.

Capture observations across a moment, session, location, specimen, object, behavior, or repeated event - with enough context to compare what changed later.

INVESTIGATION / SET	OWNER / OBSERVER	DATE	VERSION

The 20-point investigation spine

01 Identity + version	02 Question / curiosity	03 Why this matters	04 Background / context
05 Objective	06 Prediction / hypothesis	07 Success / observation criteria	08 Materials + equipment
09 Safety + preparation	10 People + roles	11 Conditions + environment	12 Setup
13 Procedure / path	14 Checkpoints + decisions	15 Observations	16 Measurements + evidence
17 Unexpected findings / deviations	18 Interpretation + findings	19 Follow-up questions	20 Record management / repeat / adapt

FIELD RULE / OBSERVATION ≠ INTERPRETATION. FACTS FIRST. MEANING SECOND.

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01 Observation identity

Subject/site, observer, date, start/end time, session number, and location.

02 Observation question

What are you looking for or paying attention to?

03 Before snapshot

What is true before the observation begins?

04 Prediction / expectation

What do you expect to notice, and why? Optional.

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05 Conditions

Weather, light, temperature, noise, location, materials, people present, or other context.

06 Time-stamped field notes

Record events, changes, behaviors, sensory details, direct quotes, and sequence without interpretation where possible.

07 Measurements + counts

Quantitative data, intervals, distances, frequencies, durations, dimensions, or tallies.

08 Sketch / photo map

Describe or reference sketches, photographs, diagrams, sample locations, or orientation.

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09 Pattern tracker

What repeated? What changed? What appeared only once?

10 Signal vs. noise

Which observations seem meaningful, and which may be coincidence or context effects?

11 Unexpected

Anything surprising, inconsistent, missing, or better than anticipated.

12 Interpretation

What might explain the observations? List more than one possibility when appropriate.

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13 Confidence check

Evidence strength: weak / emerging / useful / strong. What would increase confidence?

14 Next observation

What should be watched next time, and what should remain unchanged for comparison?

15 Related files + storage location

Where are related photos, samples, files, or previous observations stored? This field records file/storage locations; the actual My Investigation Archive record is on the BRR website.

Closeout • evidence quality + next move

91 Evidence strength

Weak / emerging / useful / strong. Identify the strongest evidence and the single thing that would most improve confidence.

92 Repeatability check

Could another person repeat this from the record? What information is still trapped in somebody's head?

93 Unexpected but better

Did any departure from the plan create a better method, clearer result, or more interesting question?

94 Next rabbit hole

What question became more interesting than the original one?

95 Revision history

Version / date / what changed / why / who changed it.