Printable version of the observation analysis question list

- What is the meaning of what you have observed?
- Why do you think what you observed happened? What evidence do you have for your reasoning?
- What events or behaviours were typical or widespread? How were they distributed among categories of people?
- Do you see any connections or patterns in what you observed?
- Why did the people you observed do it that way? What are the implications of this? Do you agree with this method?
- Did the stated or implicit objectives of what you were observing match what was achieved?
- What were the relative merits of the behaviours you observed?
- What were the strengths and weaknesses of the approaches you observed?
- Do you see connections between what you observed and the key concepts in your course and what you have read?
- How do your observations fit into the big picture of this topic area such as the whole education or justice system?
- Have you learnt anything from this?
- What education, research or professional value did you get from this field work?
- Did the allocation of resources impact on what you observed? e.g. were there too many children in the class, was the court list overcrowded?
- How have your observations changed your perceptions of the field and professional practice?

(adapted from James, Scoufis, Farrell & Carmichael, 1999; McNabb; May, 1997).