

CS 570 – Human Computer Interaction, Homework 2

Cal Poly Pomona has just hired you to make the student life here on campus more efficient and friendly. Pick a location and spend an hour people watching with a notebook and pencil. Spend some time watching the kinds of activities that people are engaged in, and think about how technology could help improve these activities. Pick one such activity to focus on and study. For your chosen activity watch several people perform the task and make detailed notes about the series of steps they go through, any objects (“artifacts”) they use, whether they interact with other people and, if so, the step-by-step details of this interaction. Conduct one or two unstructured (no set of questions) interviews with your subjects. Some examples of activities: deciding on a restaurant meal ordering, finding a professor room or classroom, deciding whether to take the stairs or elevator. Even better, come up with one that interests you.

What to Turn In:

Your report should include a one-paragraph summary of why you picked your particular activity to focus on, followed by an overview of the activity, the kinds of people you observed engaging in it, and a description of any artifacts they used. Describe the individuals you interviewed (not by name) and what you learned from the interviews. Following this, provide a detailed description of the activity and any variations you observed. You can include sketches or photographs. Total report length should be 2-3 pages (single spaced, 12 pt, Times New Roman).