

Field Notes from Interviews

Field Notes- Interview with Connie

Sunday, June 19, 2011 3:30 p.m.

Interview done over the phone

“depends on what mood I’m in that day”

“mood unpredictable”

“sometimes irritable, sometimes laughing and joking”

“sometimes want to be left alone”

feels “badly” that she may “be confusing some of my classmates”

depends on mood, when depressed may not want to interact, when hyper she is happy and outgoing

symptoms “directly affect interaction”

“classmates don’t know what is going on”

“haven’t told them”

“may think I’m an erratic person, I am, but they don’t know why”

about participation: “when I’m feeling reserved, down, I do not want to participate in class, just sit there and get through it” may not want to be there

“skip class when I really don’t feel like going”

when in better mood, “hypomanic, I speak up in class, participate more- that will feel better to me”

“depends on mood”

about professors: “I try very hard, I’m very aware of my diagnosis, don’t want them to know, try very hard to hide my symptoms”

feels she is in middle most of the time- has good medicine- “don’t think people would know unless they asked”

“if I’m too high or too low, I try to stay out of professors’ way”

“stay off radar- don’t want them to pick up on it”

“I don’t feel honest”

“I shared with one classmate my true diagnosis”

“my perception is most of my classmates don’t understand” “will make judgments about people with mental illness”

“haven’t felt like being poster child” or “talk about it in class”

“a lot of judgment”

person she chose to share with: “she said things similar to my experience”, “shared back and forth”, “felt safe”, “don’t think she’d tell”

“trust and understanding” most important factor in telling someone

“can be hard to be with friends” “I feel alone because people don’t understand”

“a lot going on in head”- hard to concentrate, participate when that is going on in head

“hard to quiet thoughts to read, focus on writing exercises, but it’s the only way I’ve known”
starts things early because it takes her more time

“never know what I’m going to wake up and be like”

“it’s scary, but it’s the way it is”