Observation and Analysis: Example Answers

[LFO Module – Autonomous Learning]
In this guide, you will participate in observation of someone completing one of your goals and a short analysis of what you witnessed.

**Observation Guide**

My goal is  **Talking with my neighbor**

Choose an appropriately similar task to observe. Be sure it is representative of your goal in some manner with applicable language.  **I will watch a clip from a TV show where neighbors are talking** (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1COucIcYhU)

The first thing the neighbors did was greet each other. I think that maybe they are friends. It looks like they are meeting for the first time though. Neighbors smile a lot! Then the parents go over to greet their new neighbors. They seem like maybe they don’t like the new neighbors. But the neighbors are still smiling and happy. They shake hands and talk about general things. Then the parents invite the neighbors to a party at their house even though they don’t seem to like them. Wow! People are nice to their neighbors!
Analysis Guide

After completing your observation, answer the following questions:

1. What was the tone of the interaction? Formal
   Informal
   Neutral

2. How do you know? Mention any clues you saw!

   They said things like, “Hi, how’re ya?” and mentioned taking their son in to use the
   bathroom. You wouldn’t talk to your boss like that! Even though they just met, they are
   smiling a lot and using casual words. I think they have an informal tone and posturing
   also.

3. What was different about what you saw from other displays of language you’ve
   seen in the past? Any special greetings, vocabulary, send-offs, transitions, etc?

   This interaction was very casual even though they just met. This is different from usual
   first greetings where you need to be very polite. They could talk about anything, but
   they mainly mention the house and the neighborhood. The parents invite them to a
   party even though they don’t want to. That must be special to neighbor relationships.

4. Below, please describe what you learned from your observation. Will it change
   how you communicate? Why?

   I will be more casual with my neighbors when I talk to them because I know that I can
   be. In the past I thought I had to be very formal with my neighbors, but now I know
   I do not even though I don’t know them well. I also learned that it is common to invite
   your neighbors over when you are having a party or an event. I don’t think that I will
   do that though because I am not comfortable having people in my house or yard without
   knowing them well. I think if I get to know my neighbors better, then I will invite them
   over. However, I learned not to be surprised to receive an invitation and that it is
   genuine. I think that is nice and very open of American culture.