Some suggestions for reports on field situations*

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**Basic information about the language**
What is the language you’re studying?

What is the language family?

Has there been any previous work on the language or a related language?

Are there any other scholars currently studying the language or a related language?

What are the typological characteristics of the language or language family?

Are there any unusual features of the language or language family?

Are there any areal phenomena?

**Graphic components of your presentation**
Always include a map showing the location of the language.

Always include a photo of yourself in the field situation.

**Your investigation**
What is the goal (or goals) of your field research?

Do you have funding for your project?

**Consultants**
What is the number of speakers (or signers) of your language?

How did you meet your consultant(s)?

What languages do they know?

How do you communicate (what is your lingua franca)?

What are your consultants’ strengths and weaknesses

*Thanks to Steve Moran and Julia Miller for comments and suggestions.*
Politics
Are there any tricky inter-personal/political situations with:

- other linguists?
- community members? (e.g. do they like having linguists in the community?)
- speakers (e.g. jealousy among speakers)?
- in the country?

Work flow
How often do you work?

How do you take notes?

Do you make recordings of your sessions? If so, do you make audio recordings, video recordings or both? What do you do with the recordings? Are you collecting metadata with your recordings?

How do you file or organize your fieldwork data?

If you’re working on a dictionary/word list, what program(s) do you use?

Are you archiving your data? All of it? Where? How?

Logistical
Where do you work?

Do you have a reliable power source while you’re doing fieldwork?

Do you have a way to communicate with the outside world?

Do you have to bring your own medical supplies to the fieldwork site?

Summarizing
What is the most difficult aspect of your fieldwork (linguistic, logistical, socio-economic)?

What is the most enjoyable aspect of your fieldwork?