

PNI Practicum I: Smaller-scale PNI

*Course Log*

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This log is a place for you to record your experiences, thoughts, and ideas as you go through the PNI Practicum I course.

Edit this file in a word processor. Answer each question by typing into its table row, adding more space as you need it. If you think of more questions you want to answer, add more table rows (or more tables). **This is your file. Change anything you want to about it.**

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# Questions as you start the course

|  |
| --- |
| On what **dates** are you taking this course? |
| **Why** are you taking the course? What do you hope to get out of it? |
| What are your **expectations** going in? |
| Describe the **project** you intend to carry out as you take the course. |

# **Part 1: Introduction, Fundamentals, Planning**

## Questions about readings

|  |
| --- |
| What **surprised** you in what you read? |
| What’s the most **useful** thing you found in what you read? |
| How would like you to **use** what you read in your project? |
| Use this space to jot down any **questions** you want to bring up in the group discussion. |

## Call notes

|  |
| --- |
| Notes on the **report**-**in** part of the seminar meeting |
| Notes on the **readings discussion** part of the seminar meeting |
| Notes on the **plan-out** part of the seminar meeting |
| Notes on the **sandbox** meeting |

## Activity 1a. Observe a story-sharing conversation

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| What **surprised** you about this conversation? | | |
| What is important to remember about the **context** of the conversation? | | |
| In your attempts to draw out stories, what **worked**, and what didn’t? | | |
| Answer the following questions for up to three of the **stories** you heard. | | |
| What was the **gist** of the story? | What was the **gist** of the story? | What was the **gist** of the story? |
| How did the story **start**? How was its abstract offered and accepted? Did you hear any reframing or negotiation? | How did the story **start**? How was its abstract offered and accepted? Did you hear any reframing or negotiation? | How did the story **start**? How was its abstract offered and accepted? Did you hear any reframing or negotiation? |
| Describe any **evaluation** statements you heard as the story was told. | Describe any **evaluation** statements you heard as the story was told. | Describe any **evaluation** statements you heard as the story was told. |
| How did the story **end**? What was its coda like? | How did the story **end**? What was its coda like? | How did the story **end**? What was its coda like? |
| What happened **after** the story was told? | What happened **after** the story was told? | What happened **after** the story was told? |
| Were there any story **chains** in the conversation? If so, what were they like? | | |
| Did you notice any **themes** that ran throughout the stories and the conversation? | | |
| Did you notice any **lulls** or pauses where people weren’t sure what to say next? | | |
| What did you notice about the story-sharing **style** of the conversation? How did it match up with – and depart from – your expectations about what conversational story sharing is like? | | |
| What did you notice about **your** **own** story-sharing style? How was it the same as, and different from, the styles of the other people in the conversation? | | |
| What did you **learn** about conversational story sharing by listening to this conversation? | | |
| What did you learn about **helping** people share stories by participating in this conversation? | | |

## Reflections on Part 1

|  |
| --- |
| What did you **learn** in this part of the course? |
| What **surprised** you? What didn’t? |
| What **ideas** do you want to remember to use later on? |
| What unresolved **issues** do you have going forward? |

# **Part 2: Collection I**

## Questions about readings

|  |
| --- |
| What **surprised** you in what you read? |
| What’s the most **useful** thing you found in what you read? |
| How would like you to **use** what you read in your project? |
| Use this space to jot down any **questions** you want to bring up in the group discussion. |

## Call notes

|  |
| --- |
| Notes on the **report**-**in** part of the seminar meeting |
| Notes on the **readings discussion** part of the seminar meeting |
| Notes on the **plan-out** part of the seminar meeting |
| Notes on the **sandbox** meeting |

## Activity 2a. Answer some questions about your participants

If there are important sub-groups among your participants, **copy the following table** and paste it to create a separate table for each sub-group.

|  |
| --- |
| Who are the **people** in this group of participants? What are they like? |
| How much does **authority** matter to this group of participants? Will they expect to have it? Will they expect you to have it? |
| What is these participants’ level of **confidence**? |
| How **busy** are these participants? |
| How **sensitive** do you think this topic is for these participants? |
| When it comes to this topic, how much importance do these participants place on **succeeding**? |
| When it comes to this topic, how concerned are these participants with **privacy**? |
| Is your topic something these participants will **know** their own feelings about? |
| Is your topic something these participants are likely to **brag** or self-promote about? |
| Is your topic something these participants are likely to feel a need to **defend** themselves about? |
| Will these participants **enjoy** talking about this topic? Or will they find it painful? |
| Are these participants very **different** from you? |
| What do these participants think of **stories** and storytelling? |

## Activity 2b. Tell some project stories

### First story

|  |
| --- |
| **Summarize** the story here. |
| What **scenario** did you choose for this story? (Ask me anything, magic ears, fly on the wall, project aspects) |
| What **outcome** did you choose for this story? (colossal success, miserable failure, acceptable outcome) |
| **What** **happened** in the story? |
| What **surprised** you about this story? |
| Describe any **opportunities** or **dangers** you see in the story. |
| What does this story **tell you** about what you should do (or avoid) in the project? |

### Second story

|  |
| --- |
| **Summarize** the story here. |
| What **scenario** did you choose for this story? (Ask me anything, magic ears, fly on the wall, project aspects) |
| What **outcome** did you choose for this story? (colossal success, miserable failure, acceptable outcome) |
| **What** **happened** in the story? |
| What **surprised** you about this story? |
| Describe any **opportunities** or **dangers** you see in the story. |
| What does this story **tell you** about what you should do (or avoid) in the project? |

### Third story

|  |
| --- |
| **Summarize** the story here. |
| What **scenario** did you choose for this story? (Ask me anything, magic ears, fly on the wall, project aspects) |
| What **outcome** did you choose for this story? (colossal success, miserable failure, acceptable outcome) |
| **What** **happened** in the story? |
| What **surprised** you about this story? |
| Describe any **opportunities** or **dangers** you see in the story. |
| What does this story **tell you** about what you should do (or avoid) in the project? |

## Activity 2c. Answer the PNI Planning Questions

|  |
| --- |
| What is the **goal** of the project? Why are you doing it? What will be achieved if it succeeds? |
| What **relationships** are important to the project? Who will connect with whom, how, and why? Who will tell stories, listen to stories, make sense of stories, facilitate, and so on? |
| What is the **focus** of the project? What is it about? What is its subject matter? |
| What **range** (or ranges) of experience will the project cover? Which perspectives will be explored? (Perhaps multiple groups, or locations, or time frames.) |
| What is the project's **scope**? How many people will be involved? How many stories? How many questions? How many sessions? |
| What is the project's **emphasis**? Which phases of PNI (planning, collection, catalysis, sensemaking, intervention, return) will be important to the project? |
| Which, if any, of these questions were **difficult** to answer? Which do you need to work on? |
| Do you have any **questions** about your project planning? |

## Activity 2d. Build your privacy policy

|  |
| --- |
| Describe **what you are collecting** and why. (For example: "We are gathering accounts of experiences of \_\_\_ from \_\_\_ so we can \_\_\_.") |
| Describe the **identifying information** you are asking people to provide. Explain how you will ensure that no other information will be collected. (For example: "Your contribution is anonymous. Every question is optional.") |
| Explain **what you do not want participants to reveal**. (For example: "Do not include any identifying information about yourself or anyone else, including \_\_\_.") |
| Explain how the collected information will be **distributed** and used in the project. Explain who will get to see what, when, how, and why. (For example: "Your \_\_\_ will be read and discussed, along with other \_\_\_ gathered from other \_\_\_, in \_\_\_.") |
| If you want to **invite the people who tell stories to your sensemaking sessions**, make your invitation explicit. (For example: "You are invited to join us as we discuss the stories we have gathered in this project. To learn more, \_\_\_.") |
| If you want to **publish** any of your collected stories, ask for explicit permission. (For example: "If you do not want to give us permission to use your \_\_\_ in our \_\_\_, please contact \_\_\_.") |
| Explain how your participants can **review or change** any information they have provided to the project. When people know they can change their minds later, it helps them to open up. (For example: "To review, change, or remove your \_\_\_, please contact \_\_\_.) |

## Activity 2e. Prepare to describe your plans to the group

|  |
| --- |
| If you want to, paste (or describe) your presentation here. |

## Reflections on Part 2

|  |
| --- |
| What did you **learn** in this part of the course? |
| What **surprised** you? What didn’t? |
| What **ideas** do you want to remember to use later on? |
| What unresolved **issues** do you have going forward? |

# **Part 3: Collection II**

There are no readings in part 3.

## Call notes

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| --- |
| Notes on the **report**-**in** part of the seminar meeting |
| Notes on the **readings discussion** part of the seminar meeting |
| Notes on the **plan-out** part of the seminar meeting |
| Notes on the **sandbox** meeting |

## Activity 3a. Choose and adapt a story form

|  |
| --- |
| Paste your **story form** here. |
| Why did you choose **this** story form? |
| Did you make any **tweaks** to the story form you chose? If so, what did you change, and why? |
|  |

## Activity 3b. Gather stories in an individual interview

If you do more than one interview, copy and paste this table of questions for each interview.

|  |
| --- |
| What stands out to you as **important or surprising** about this interview? Think about what the person said, but also how you *felt* about what they said, and what you said in response. |
| What parts of the interview were **easier or harder** than you expected? What felt natural to you, and what was difficult? |
| What parts of the interview did the interviewee seem to **like** most and least? Where was the energy in the interview? |
| How did the **story form** you chose (and maybe tweaked) work out? Would you like to change anything about it? |
| What did you learn about the story-sharing **styles** of your interviewee? |
| What is your own **style** of facilitating individual interviews? |
| What do you want to remember to do (or not do) the **next** time you gather stories in an individual interview? |
| **What else** do you want to remember about this interview? |

## Activity 3c. Transcribe stories

|  |
| --- |
| What **surprised** you about transcribing stories? |
| What have you **learned** so far about transcribing stories? |
| What do you want to remember to do (or not do) the **next** time you transcribe stories? |

## Activity 3d. Improve your story form

|  |
| --- |
| Paste your **improved** **story form** here. |
| What did you **change**? Why? |
| Are there any **unresolved issues** with the form? Things you are not sure about or might want to change later? |

## Reflections on Part 3

|  |
| --- |
| What did you **learn** in this part of the course? |
| What **surprised** you? What didn’t? |
| What **ideas** do you want to remember to use later on? |
| What unresolved **issues** do you have going forward? |

# **Part 4: Collection III**

## Questions about readings

|  |
| --- |
| What **surprised** you in what you read? |
| What’s the most **useful** thing you found in what you read? |
| How would like you to **use** what you read in your project? |
| Use this space to jot down any **questions** you want to bring up in the group discussion. |

## Call notes

|  |
| --- |
| Notes on the **report**-**in** part of the seminar meeting |
| Notes on the **readings discussion** part of the seminar meeting |
| Notes on the **plan-out** part of the seminar meeting |
| Notes on the **sandbox** meeting |

## Activity 4a. Gather stories in a group interview

If you do more than one interview, copy and paste this table of questions for each interview.

|  |
| --- |
| What stands out to you as **important or surprising** about this interview? Think about what the people said, but also how you *felt* about what they said, and what you said in response. |
| What parts of the interview were **easier or harder** than you expected? What felt natural to you, and what was difficult? |
| What parts of the interview did the interviewees seem to **like** most and least? Where was the energy in the interview? |
| What did you notice about **interactions** among the interviewees during the interview? |
| What did you learn about the story-sharing **styles** of your interviewees? |
| What is your own **style** of facilitating group interviews? |
| What do you want to remember to do (or not do) the **next** time you gather stories in a group interview? |
| **What else** do you want to remember about this interview? |

## Activity 4b. Transcribe stories

|  |
| --- |
| What did you **do differently** the second time you transcribed stories? |
| What did you **learn** this time through that was new and different? Any reflections? |

## Activity 4c. Create a survey (optional)

|  |
| --- |
| How did you **build** your survey? What software did you use? |
| What was it like making the survey? How was it **easy**, and how was it **hard**? |
| If you **tested** the survey, how did that go? What did people say? |
| How did you **tell** your project participants about the survey? |
| How did people **respond** to your invitation? |
| Is there anything you want to **change** because of the response you got? |

## Activity 4d. Prepare at least one story card

|  |
| --- |
| **Paste** in a story card (or a photo of one). |
| What was **easy** about preparing this story card? What was **hard**? |
| When you showed your story card to other people, **what did they say** about it? |
| Do you want to **change** anything in your design based on the response you got? |

## Reflections on Part Four

|  |
| --- |
| What did you **learn** in this part of the course? |
| What **surprised** you? What didn’t? |
| What **ideas** do you want to remember to use later on? |
| What unresolved **issues** do you have going forward? |

# **Part 5: Sensemaking I**

## Questions about readings

|  |
| --- |
| What **surprised** you in what you read? |
| What’s the most **useful** thing you found in what you read? |
| How would like you to **use** what you read in your project? |
| Use this space to jot down any **questions** you want to bring up in the group discussion. |

## Call notes

|  |
| --- |
| Notes on the **report**-**in** part of the seminar meeting |
| Notes on the **readings discussion** part of the seminar meeting |
| Notes on the **plan-out** part of the seminar meeting |
| Notes on the **sandbox** meeting |

## Activity 5a. Facilitate a group story-sharing session

If you facilitate more than one session, copy and paste this table of questions for each session.

|  |
| --- |
| What parts of this session were **easier or harder** than you expected? What felt natural to you, and what was difficult? |
| What part(s) of the session did the participants seem to **like** most and least? |
| What did you notice about the **dynamics** of the group? How did people interact with each other? How did the energy flow throughout the session? Did it change as time went by? |
| What did you notice about the way your session participants interacted with **you**? |
| Did you have to **intervene** at any time in the discussion, perhaps to guide people back to story sharing, or to stop someone from dominating the group? What happened then? |
| Which story-sharing **exercise** did you use? Did you tweak it? How? |
| How did the exercise **work out**? What happened during it? Did people get hung up on anything, or did it flow smoothly? What was it like? |
| What did you **learn** about story sharing from this session? What did you see happen that gave you some insights into how story sharing works? |
| Did you break people apart into small **groups**? If so, how did that go? |
| How did it go when you asked people to **answer** the questions on the story form? What went well with that, and what didn’t? |
| How did the session **end**? What did people say as you were bringing the session to a close? |
| What were the **stories** like? Did they surprise you? What about the answers to questions? |
| How has your **project** changed as a result of this session? |
| What was **special** about these people, in this place, on this day? |
| What **surprised** you about this session? What didn’t you see coming? |
| What **new ideas** did you gain from this session? What did you **learn** from it? |
| Do you need to make any more **tweaks** to your story form? What are they? |
| What is your own **style** of facilitating this type of session? |
| What do you want to **remember** to do (or not do) the next time you do this? |
| Is there anything **else** you want to remember about this session? |

## Activity 5b. Transcribe stories

|  |
| --- |
| Having done some more transcription, what is your transcribing **style**? |
| If somebody asked you for some **advice** on transcribing stories, what would you say? |

## Activity 5c. Prepare the rest of your story cards

|  |
| --- |
| What was **easy** and **hard** about getting all of your story cards ready? |
| What is your own **style** of preparing story cards? |
| What are some **experiments** you might like to try with story cards in the future? |

## Reflections on Part 5

|  |
| --- |
| What did you **learn** in this part of the course? |
| What **surprised** you? What didn’t? |
| What **ideas** do you want to remember to use later on? |
| What unresolved **issues** do you have going forward? |

# **Part 6: Sensemaking II**

There are no readings in part 6.

## Call notes

|  |
| --- |
| Notes on the **report**-**in** part of the seminar meeting |
| Notes on the **readings discussion** part of the seminar meeting |
| Notes on the **plan-out** part of the seminar meeting |
| Notes on the **sandbox** meeting |

## Activity 6a. Facilitate a story-contact task

If you facilitate more than one session, copy and paste this table of questions for each session.

|  |
| --- |
| What parts of the session were **easier or harder** than you expected? What felt natural to you, and what was difficult? |
| What part(s) of the session did the participants seem to **like** most and least? |
| What did you notice about the **dynamics** of the group? How did people interact? |
| What did you notice about the way your session participants interacted with **you**? |
| Did you have to **intervene** in what people were doing at any time? What happened? |
| Did you break people apart into small **groups**? If so, how did that go? |
| Which contact **task** did you use? Did you tweak it? How? |
| How did the **task** go? What happened during it? Did people get hung up on anything, or did it flow smoothly? What was it like? |
| How did the **wrapping-up** part of the session go? What sorts of things did people say? |
| Did the session have an **after-party**? What was that like? What did people say? |
| How has your **project** changed as a result of this session? |
| What was **special** about these people in this place on this day? |
| What **new ideas** did you gain from this session? What did you **learn** from it? |
| What do you want to **remember** to do (or not do) the next time you do this? |

## Reflections on Part 6

|  |
| --- |
| What did you **learn** in this part of the course? |
| What **surprised** you? What didn’t? |
| What **ideas** do you want to remember to use later on? |
| What unresolved **issues** do you have going forward? |

# **Part 7: Sensemaking III**

There are no readings in part 7.

## Call notes

|  |
| --- |
| Notes on the **report**-**in** part of the seminar meeting |
| Notes on the **readings discussion** part of the seminar meeting |
| Notes on the **plan-out** part of the seminar meeting |
| Notes on the **sandbox** meeting |

## Activity 7a. Facilitate a sensemaking exercise

If you facilitate more than one session, copy and paste this table of questions for each session.

|  |
| --- |
| What parts of the session were **easier or harder** than you expected? What felt natural to you, and what was difficult? |
| What part(s) of the session did the participants seem to **like** most and least? |
| What did you notice about the **dynamics** of the group? How did the energy flow? |
| What did you notice about the way your session participants interacted with **you**? |
| Did you have to **intervene** in what people were doing at any time? What happened? |
| What did you **learn** about sensemaking from this session? |
| Did you break people apart into small **groups**? If so, how did that go? |
| How did you **introduce** the stories to the participants? How did that go? |
| Which sensemaking **exercise** did you use? Did you tweak it? How? |
| How did the **exercise** go? What happened during it? Did people get hung up on anything, or did it flow smoothly? What was it like? |
| How did the **wrapping-up** part of the session go? |
| Did the session have an **after-party**? What was that like? What did people say? |
| How has your **project** changed as a result of this session? |
| What was **special** about these people in this place on this day? |
| What **new ideas** did you gain from this session? |
| What do you want to **remember** to do (or not do) the next time you do this? |

## Reflections on Part 7

|  |
| --- |
| What did you **learn** in this part of the course? |
| What **surprised** you? What didn’t? |
| What **ideas** do you want to remember to use later on? |
| What unresolved **issues** do you have going forward? |

# **Part 8: Intervention and Return**

## Questions about readings

|  |
| --- |
| What **surprised** you in what you read? |
| What’s the most **useful** thing you found in what you read? |
| How would like you to **use** what you read in your project? |
| Use this space to jot down any **questions** you want to bring up in the group discussion. |

## Call notes

|  |
| --- |
| Notes on the **report**-**in** part of the seminar meeting |
| Notes on the **readings discussion** part of the seminar meeting |
| Notes on the **plan-out** part of the seminar meeting |
| Notes on the **sandbox** meeting |

## Activity 8a. Facilitate a full sensemaking workshop

If you facilitate more than one session, copy and paste this table of questions for each session.

|  |
| --- |
| What parts of the workshop were **easier or harder** than you expected? What felt natural to you, and what was difficult? |
| What part(s) of the workshop did the participants seem to **like** most and least? |
| What did you notice about the **dynamics** of the group? How did the energy flow throughout the workshop? Did it change as time went by? |
| What did you notice about the way your workshop participants interacted with **you**? |
| Did you have to **intervene** in what people were doing at any time? What happened? |
| What did you **learn** about sensemaking from this session? What did you see happen that gave you some insights into how sensemaking works? |
| Did you break people apart into small **groups**? If so, how did that go? |
| How did you **introduce** the stories to the participants? How did that go? |
| Which sensemaking **exercise** did you use? Did you tweak it? How? |
| How did the **exercise** go? What happened during it? Did people get hung up on anything, or did it flow smoothly? What was it like? |
| How did the **wrapping-up** part of the workshop go? What sorts of things did people say in that part? Did anything surprise you in that part of the workshop? |
| Did the workshop have an **after-party**? What was that like? What did people say? |
| Describe the **contact** aspect of the sensemaking. What happened when people and stories came together? |
| Describe the **churning** aspect of the sensemaking. What happened when people, stories, and project started interacting? |
| Describe the **converging** aspect of the sensemaking. How did things begin to come together? |
| Describe the **changing** aspect of the sensemaking. Did anything change as a result of the sensemaking? |
| How did the perceptions of the **participants** change from the start to the end of the workshop? |
| How did **your** perceptions change from the start to the end? |
| How has your **project** changed as a result of this workshop? |
| What was **special** about these people in this place on this day? |
| What **new ideas** did you gain from this workshop? What did you **learn** from it? |
| What is your own **style** of facilitating narrative sensemaking? |
| What do you want to **remember** to do (or not do) the next time you do this? |
| Is there anything **else** you want to remember about this workshop? |

## Activity 8b. Prepare to present an account of your project

|  |
| --- |
| **Describe** the account your prepared. |
| How did your presentation go? How did people **respond**? |
| What did you **learn** about your project by presenting it to the group? |

## Activity 8c. Do optional wrapping-up things

### Plan and carry out a narrative intervention

|  |
| --- |
| What sort of intervention did you choose to do? **Describe** it. |
| What **happened**? How did people respond? |
| How did the intervention **turn out**? What went well, and what didn’t? |
| What is your own **style** of intervention? |
| What did you **learn** from what happened? |

### Return stories to the community

|  |
| --- |
| **How** did you return the stories to the people? |
| What **happened**? How did people respond? |
| How did the return **go**? What went well, and what didn’t? |
| What is your own **style** of returning stories? |
| What did you **learn** from what happened? |

### Create a project report

|  |
| --- |
| What was it **like** writing the project report? |
| What did you **do** with the report? |
| Did anyone **respond** to the report? What did they say? |
| What is your own **style** of project reporting? |
| What did you **learn** from what happened? |

### Reflect on the project

|  |
| --- |
| What **surprised** you about the stories you heard in this project? |
| What do you know **about stories** that you didn't know before this project? |
| Has your **definition** of the word "story" changed during this project? If so, how? |
| What do you **know** about the community or organization involved in the project that you didn’t know before the project started? |
| Did this project uncover any **dangers or opportunities** about the community or organization? If so, what are they? |
| How will what you have learned about this community or organization impact any **future** projects you do with or for it? |
| In any part of this project, did you ever find yourself (personally or as a team) **stuck** in an area in which you thought you had strength? |
| During this project, did you ever find **skills** you didn't know you had? What happened? |
| If you worked in a **team**: What did you learn about how your team works together during this project? How can you use that knowledge going forward? |
| Did your project plan **turn out** the way you thought it would? What worked as you expected, and what didn't? |
| Were there any moments during the project where you experienced **crises** because your plan was not working? What happened during those moments? |
| Did any unexpected **opportunities** or **new ideas** present themselves during the project? Were there times when you said to yourself, "I didn't plan on that, but it's a great idea"? |
| What were some of the **high and low points** in your facilitation during this project? |
| What **surprised** you about your facilitation? |
| What do you know **about facilitation** that you didn't know before this project? |
| How did this project **challenge** the way you do facilitation? What **limitations** did it expose? |
| Did you try any **experiments** with your facilitation during this project? If so, what happened? |
| Are there any aspects of PNI, or of story work in general, that this project makes you **curious** about trying in the future? |
| List some **future PNI projects** that you would like to do after this project, if you can. What would you like to do next? |

## Reflections on Part 8

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| What did you **learn** in this part of the course? |
| What **surprised** you? What didn’t? |
| What **ideas** do you want to remember to use later on? |

# Reflections on the entire course

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| What did you **learn** in this course? What didn’t you learn? |
| What **surprised** you the most about the **course**? |
| What **surprised** you the most about your **project**? |
| What do you remember best from the **readings**? What stuck with you most? |
| What unresolved **issues** do you have going forward? What challenges, mysteries, or dilemmas lie before you? |
| Where in this course, and in your project, did you find the most **energy** flowing? What part of the course or project was the most exciting to you? |
| Were there any parts you didn’t like? Did the course or project **drag** for you at any point? Why do you think that happened? |
| What is your unique **style** or flavor of doing PNI? If you were to give your style of PNI its own name, what would it be? |
| What are your **strengths** in doing PNI? |
| What are your **weaknesses** in doing PNI? |
| What do you want to do with PNI **next**? What are some ideas for new things that you want to explore after this? |