

Lucille P. McCarthy researched three questions in her study: (1) What are tasks students encounter as they move between classes? (2) How do successful students interpret these tasks and what is appropriate for different courses and how is the product produced in essence of that? (3) What social factors influence students writing style and competence in the classroom setting? The researcher utilized the naturalistic methods of observation, interviews, composing aloud protocols, and text analysis to obtain her results. There were three primary findings concluded from McCarthy's research. First, Dave interpreted the similar writing tasks in his three classes to be completely different from one another, and different than anything he had done before. Second, certain social factors in each individual class fostered Dave's success in them. Third and finally, "Dave exhibited consistent ways of figuring out what constituted appropriate texts in each setting" (360). By researching through a naturalistic viewpoint without an initial hypothesis, McCarthy's findings were consistent with that of an experimental case study, free of situational variables created by a simulated environment that could have otherwise altered her results. Her methodology was consistent and effective, and established multiple means of data collection from different perspectives of the problem. However, other methods could have been used to produce different results, such as simulating a classroom environment outside of Dave's normal routine, with differing variables to obtain results for a specific question in each scenario.

Dave's chief concerns in his poetry class were with the new ways of thinking and writing in that setting. "Forty-four percent of his concerns focused on accurately interpreting the poem and properly using quotes" (362). Dave and his professor could have worked together on the analysis and dissection of poems to establish meaning

and purpose, as well as making personal connections to the poem to help in comprehension. By consistently utilizing the proper methods of analyzing and quoting lines in a poem, Dave's confidence in doing so would have significantly increased.