Sample Narrative Notes

The following is an excerpt of narrative notes.
The highlighted portions are fitted in the anecdotes in the sample Form A items on page 28.

Observation: Thursday, July 5, 2018
Attendees: 7 boys and 3 girls, plus C. and L., counselors
Room: Classroom with most of the desks pushed back against the wall so that there is free space in the front of the room for activity. They do not have the lights on since it is pretty warm and there is no air conditioning. There are two homemade posters (markers on easel paper) on the wall that list rules.

C. asks them to draw "something you want in your future." She asks if they want to do one large picture or individual ones. They choose individual. One youth asks if she could draw stick figures. C. says, "I don't know, can you?" She reminds them to share the markers. "Remember everyone only needs one marker at a time. Share and have patience."

C. says to one youth, "Tell me about those clouds you're drawing." The youth says, "They're big and white but this brush ain't working good."

She tells them that the pictures are for a wall for Prevention Works. She once again suggests one big piece of paper on the floor — "Wouldn't that be easier?" but the group once again says no, and she says, "Okay, you're just not that kind of group." She then passes out snacks.

C. sits down with youth to chat while they are working on the pictures. Julius talks about his sister and a bottle rocket. C. says, "What did you learn from that experience?"

C. says, "Look at March's paper; there's color and vibrance."

Once again, she asks about doing one large picture together. "If I bring out the glitter and paints, will you do a picture together?"

L. reads and explains a worksheet. They then break into twos and share with their partner.

C. says, "What do you think of what achievement is?" She then says, "My achievement could be finishing college. Yours could be different, like finishing a series of books."

C. then explains addiction and character. Then she asks them, "Where would you go if you could go anywhere in the world?" They then have discussions on different cultures and places. Someone makes comments about food, and C. reminds them that other cultures would say the same thing about our food because it is different to them.

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