



**El Paso Community College Dental Hygiene Program
Dental Hygiene Observation Assignment**

Name: _____
EPCC ID: _____

PURPOSE: Provide an initial exposure and reflection in regard to the dental hygiene profession by observing a registered dental hygienist for a minimum of eight (8) hours. This assignment must be completed prior to the ranking process.

PART 1:

1. Contact a licensed registered dental hygienist to schedule a time to observe.
2. Observe for a minimum of **eight (8) hours** (can be all in one day or broken up over multiple sessions).
3. Prior to observing, ask the hygienist or dental office/clinic how to prepare and how to dress appropriately.
4. When observing, fill out the box below and have the hygienist sign it.
5. Take notes of your observations and ask questions!
6. E-Mail or Hand in a copy of this signed form to the Dental Hygiene Clinic located in the Rio Grande Border Health Clinic (c/o Mrs. Villapana – kvillapa@epcc.edu).

Date	# Hours Observed	Hygienist Signature	Hygienist Comments:
			<p>NOTE TO HYGIENIST: Fill out e-form for to complete candidate's application - https://forms.office.com/r/Zm4thFC3zX</p>

PART 2:

Observation Essay.

Complete a +500-word essay reflecting on your thoughts **ONLINE** at the following link:
<https://forms.office.com/r/0GaJGxUXUz>

Take notes and ask the dental hygienist questions and address the following in your essay:

- A. *What were your observations?*
 - *Comment your thoughts on three (3) of the following that may have been observed*
 - *Understanding medical histories and pharmacology*
 - *Exposing and interpreting various types of dental radiographs*
 - *Head and neck cancer screenings*
 - *Assessments of the teeth and gums*
 - *Dental charting*
 - *Intraoral camera pictures*
 - *Treatment planning (restorative vs. dental hygiene)*
 - *Patient home care instructions*
 - *Teeth whitening*
 - *Hygiene instrument and equipment selection*
 - *Sterilization process and infection control*
 - *Time management (to include dentist exams, running behind, tardy patients)*
- B. *What do you like about this profession?*
- C. *What do you dislike about this profession?*
- D. *Other than someone that "cleans teeth" – What is a dental hygienist, and what do they do?*