

Readings

1. Sofaer S. Qualitative Methods: What are the and why use them? HSR 1999 35(5)
2. Sofaer S. Qualitative Research Methods. International Journal for Quality in Health Care 2002; v 14 i 4
3. Morse JM. A Review committee's guide for evaluating qualitative proposals. Qual Health Research July 2003 v 13 i 6
4. Dixon Woods M, Agarwal S, Young B, Jones D, Sutton A. Integrative approaches to qualitative and quantitative evidence. UK Health Development Agency report 2004, pages 2 through 9 only.

Assignment

1. Write at least one focused research question or hypothesis, related to your research interests, that you think could be investigated using qualitative research methods.
2. Draft a research plan, including sampling and data collection ONLY (not analysis).
3. Be prepared to critique, *for your colleagues' proposals*:
 - What is your opinion of the methods proposed?
 - What are the limitations of their approach?
 - What alternative or additional ways would you use to address the research question?

GUIDELINES FOR READING

Why might one choose to use “qualitative” **and not** quantitative methods in research?

Why might one use qualitative **in addition to** quantitative research?

What are some reasons to **avoid** qualitative research?

How does sampling (choosing of research subjects) differ in qualitative and quantitative research? What are some goals of sampling in qualitative research?

What are the strengths and weaknesses of the following categories of methods for data collection?

- Individual interviews
- Group interviews (focus groups)
- Observation with notetaking
- Document gathering
- Naturalistic (audiotaping and/or videotaping of events or encounters)

What are some of the different theories or conceptual underpinnings used in data collection and analysis?