



CHAPTER 6 WORKSHEET: QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS

Your research purpose and research questions should lead you to select an appropriate method—one that is designed to address your purpose and allow you to answer your questions. For each of the following hypothetical scenarios, all of which center on studying students' pandemic experiences, note which qualitative method is most appropriate.

- Hypothetical research scenario 1:** Your research purpose is to study college students' experiences during the pandemic and what it is like returning to in-person classrooms, including any struggles they may be experiencing. Your research questions are the following: What was it like for college students during the lockdown on a personal level? What was their experience of online or hybrid learning during the pandemic? What is their experience returning to in-person classes postlockdown?

Appropriate method: _____

- Hypothetical research scenario 2:** Your research purpose is to explore college students' pandemic experiences using your own experience as a starting point. By excavating your personal experiences, the research will connect to larger issues pertaining to mental health, virtual classrooms, and student life during the pandemic. Your research questions are the following: What was my emotional, psychological, social, and educational experience of the pandemic? What were my struggles and challenges? How are my experiences connected to larger issues that were happening in the culture and across college campuses?

Appropriate method: _____

- Hypothetical research scenario 3:** Your research purpose is to understand campus life in public spaces (e.g., cafeteria, quad) postpandemic. Your research questions are the following: How does social distancing impact students' interactions in campus spaces? How does mask wearing impact students' interactions in campus spaces? What are interactions on campus spaces like as students return to campus postpandemic?

Appropriate method: _____

- Hypothetical research scenario 4:** Your research purpose is to understand the meanings embedded in college students' social media posts during the lockdown. Your research questions are the following: What kinds of posts did students make during the pandemic? How did they document their lockdown experience? How did they document their struggles or challenges?

Appropriate method: _____