

Research Portfolio Assignment #4

The purpose of this assignment is to give you a chance to try out your interview skills. As with your field study, the following research guidelines are in accordance with UMT's institutional review board's guidelines for the protection of human subjects, so it is very important that you follow them. Thanks!

Here's what you need to do...

1. Develop a **qualitative** research question based on your topic that is appropriate for use with the unstructured or qualitative interview research design. This may be similar to the research question you used in your field research.
2. Identify at least four sources of information that address your topic. You can use sources from your existing annotated bibliography and/or add new sources. The key is to identify material relevant to your research topic. Write up annotated entries for new sources and add to the annotation relevant information. **PLEASE NOTE - at least two of these sources must be new - that is, not currently on your annotated bibliography.**
3. Write an informative literature review based on your annotated information and original source materials. Remember to include citations in the body of your work.
4. Construct your own consent form. Make two copies of the consent form - one for your subject to keep and one for her/him to sign and return to you. The consent form **MUST** follow the UMT IRB guidelines.
5. Develop a brief set of interview categories to guide your interview. Remember, this is an unstructured interview, not a face-to-face survey. The goal is to prompt your subject to have a conversation with you about your topic. Do not construct a formal questionnaire but **do have an interview schedule.**
6. Identify someone appropriate to interview who is **NOT** in a category protected by the UMT Institutional Review Board.
7. Make an appointment to interview this individual. When you make your appointment, be sure to let her/him know that you are conducting a class project, that you may be audio-taping the interview, and that you will be asking them to read and sign a consent-to-be-interviewed form. Plan on scheduling about 45 minutes for the interview.
8. At the time of your appointment, have your subject read and sign the consent form.
9. Audio-tape your interview. After the interview, write more detailed field notes to document additional observations and your own interview experience as a researcher.

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10. Transcribe your audio-taped interview. Please observe the commitment you have made to your subject about confidentiality. Keep her/his name separate from your transcription and write up. The only document you turn in to me that includes information that identifies your subject's name will be the consent form.
 11. Code your transcription. (Hand in a copy of your CODED data)
 12. Analyze your findings using the techniques discussed in the text and in class.
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The assignment you turn in will be a research report of your study and your findings. As such, it should include the following sections in the order listed. Be sure to give your paper a title. Subheadings are appropriate..

1. An introduction to your project - what you did and why..
2. A literature review.
3. A discussion of your research methodology, including what you did to protect your human subject. In this section, include a discussion of how and why you selected your interview subject. **Your report should not reveal your subject's name.**
4. A discussion and analysis of our findings. Be sure to consider the context (the physical site, cultural environment, human environment, and so on), This **should not** be a verbatim transcript of your interview. Include how you developed your analytic categories from the interview text and in what ways this information adds to your understanding of your topic. Remember, you are looking for meaning in both what is said and the context in which it is said relevant to the social location of your subject. Include the 1st order interpretation (e.g., quotes from your participate) that support your second order interpretations.
5. A conclusion, that is, a synthesis of how your findings fit with the literature you reviewed relative to your research question.
6. A *Works Cited* page.
7. A copy of your annotated entries.
8. A copy of your interview schedule. (An appendix)
9. A signed consent form.
10. A copy of your **original** field notes, transcription of your audio-taped interview, the audio-tape itself, and the original signed consent form. Remember, if your subject refuses to sign your consent, you cannot interview her/him!

Any assignment turned in without field notes, transcription of the interview, and a consent form will receive a "0."