

Forming Research Questions:

- **Qualitative**

- Open Ended
- Not numerical (e.g, analysis of text)
- Hypothesis generation
- Data: text or visual
- Data collection: flexible
- Analysis: describe meaning, contexts, relationships
- Inductive Process
- Meaning behind data/context
- Benefits:
 - Indepth
 - Identify reasons or themes (harder with just numbers)
 - Open-ended

- **Quantitative**

- Questions: closed response, forced
- Hypothesis: testing
- Data: numerical and nominal
- Data collection: standardized
- Analysis: quantify, statistical significance
- Deductive Process
- Benefits:
 - Numerical data
 - Sometimes more convincing/objective
 - Easier comparison with other studies
 - Looking at the “average” person

Bias

- Bias is generally defined as prejudice in the favor of or against a thing person or group
- Publication bias - significant or positive results are more likely to be published
 - Studies that show no statistically significant findings or results are less likely to be published
 - Researchers and journals are less likely to publish them
- Reporting bias refers to focusing on some desirable results will often omit or suppress undesirable or non significant results
 - Omitting or hiding unexpected undesirable or non significant results
- Confirmation bias which - researcher consciously or unconsciously looks for and possibly favors an expected result or a result that conforms to their opinion
 - Researcher ignores or suspects the protocol or some step was wrong when the results are contrary to their prior beliefs but there could be an actual error
 - They overlook it because the results met their expectations

- Recall bias - participant of a study misremembers an event that happened to them in the past (not on purpose)
 - We're more likely to remember certain events and obscure our memories to fit some narrative over time
 - Results can be skewed because a person miss remembers it