

### **Formative activity: Defining Your Methods**

I would argue that the appropriate research method for my project is qualitative research.

My project focuses on exploring how micro businesses deal with threat modelling and then designing a new threat modelling methodology based on the findings of this research. It is therefore exploratory in nature. As such, I need to gather detailed information from small business owners about their current practices and approaches, as well as explore their feelings about the issue.

In terms of data collection methods, I plan to use online surveys. The reason for this choice is that my research topic is not geographically limited, so I want to gather as much information as possible from around the world so that I can consider different approaches in different parts of the world. Online surveys are easy to administer (from the researcher's point of view) and easy to complete (from the respondent's point of view).

I intend to use a mixture of close-ended and open-ended questions. By asking close-ended/multiple-choice questions, I will be able to understand the background of the micro business (e.g., "How many employees work for your business?") as well as the business owner (e.g., "Do you have any formal education in computer science or cybersecurity?"). On the other hand, open-ended questions will help me understand how each and every business approaches threat modelling.