Assignment #3: Interview-based Qualitative Research Paper

Using Chapter 7 of *Situating Research* as our guide, Assignment #3 asks you to analyze your interview data, ‘cooking’ and ‘coding’ that data (page 170) in order to write meaningfully about it. Specifically, you should write a 5-7 page, double-spaced essay that accurately represents your interview findings, drawing attention to particular themes and patterns in your data, and making tentative interpretations of why you believe these patterns occurred. As with your first assignment, your writing should be geared toward a professional, academic audience.

In an introductory paragraph or two, you should indicate clearly what your overall guiding research question was; why it was significant to pursue; and how you approached it methodologically (e.g. how many people you interviewed and via what means). [See page 177 of *Situating Research* for advice on writing about your methods.]

Then, within a series of body paragraphs, you should fairly and accurately discuss key themes or patterns, quoting occasionally from interviews where a participant stated something particularly memorably. You might isolate between 2-3 key themes or patterns.

Finally, in a closing paragraph or two, you should make tentative interpretations about your findings, speculate as to why you discovered what you did, or otherwise draw larger conclusions about your data.

Because it’s late in the quarter and we’re all fairly exhausted, I won’t require the use of outside sources here. But if you choose to include any outside sources, please document them in standard APA style, the formatting style used by most social scientists. Email me for help with this!

**Rough drafts due (for peer review): Tuesday, June 2nd**

**Final drafts due via email: Friday, June 5th**