

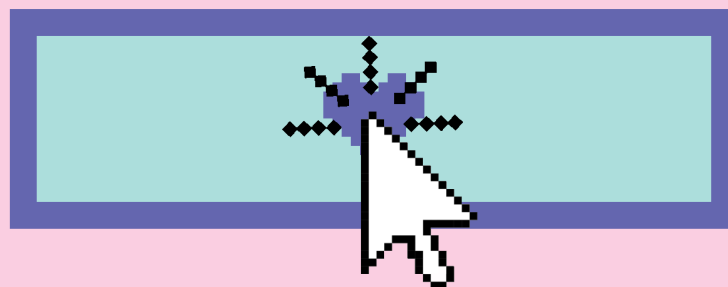


PRACTICAL RESEARCH 3: MODULE 3



DESIGNING A RESEARCH PROJECT

Come on, and let us venture to the
world of RESEARCH!





DESIGNING A RESEARCH PROJECT

Qualitative Research is characterized more of seeking to explore phenomena; the instruments used are more flexible; has an iterative style of eliciting and categorizing responses to questions; uses semi-structured methods such: as in-depth interviews, focus groups, and participant observation. It also uses Open-ended questions and Textual (obtained from audiotapes, videotapes, and field notes). Its methods rely heavily on "thick" verbal descriptions of a particular context being studied.



DESIGNING A RESEARCH PROJECT

One advantage of qualitative methods in exploratory research is that use of open-ended questions and probing allows participants to respond in their own words, rather than forcing them to choose from fixed responses, as quantitative methods do. One weakness of Qualitative research is – Gaining entry. Access is very much dependent upon the researcher's characteristics and how others perceive the researcher. May require considerable negotiation and compromise with a gatekeeper.



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TYPES OF QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

1. Biographical - The study of an individual and her or his experiences as told to the researcher or found in documents and archival material.
2. Phenomenology - Describes the meaning of the lived experience about a concept or a phenomenon for several individuals.
3. Grounded Theory - Grounded theory intends to generate or discover a theory that relates to a particular situation. If little is known about a topic, grounded theory is especially useful.
4. Ethnography - A description and interpretation of a cultural or social group or system. The researcher examines the group's observable and learned patterns of behavior, customs, and ways of life.
5. Case Study - A case study is an exploration of a "bounded system" or a case (or multiple cases) over time through detailed, in-depth data collection involving multiple sources of information-rich in context.



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TYPES OF QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

The role of the Qualitative research is to describe variation; describe and explain relationships; to describe individual experiences, and to describe group norms. It is an approach used largely in the social sciences to explore social interactions, systems, and processes. It provides an in-depth understanding of the ways people come to understand, act, and manage their day-to-day situations in particular settings.



DESIGNING A RESEARCH PAPER

The Qualitative Planning Stage



- In qualitative research, some have added a separate "Ethical" component to the model.



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- In Goals, you should ask the following questions: Is the study worth doing? What issues do you want to clarify? What do you want to influence? Practices? Policies? Why should anyone care about the results?
- In the Conceptual Framework, you should ask the following questions: What is going on with the issues, settings, or people you plan to study? What beliefs, theories, ideas, and/or findings will you draw upon to inform the research, and what literature, experiences, and preliminary studies will you draw on for understanding the phenomenon? Conceptual Context of Theory and Literature – Will Theory Change the Lens?



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- In Methods, you should consider the questions: What will you do in conducting the study? What techniques will you use to collect and analyze your data? Data Collection Techniques; Interviews; Surveys; Observation? Sampling Design – Site Selection and Gaining Access?
- In Validity, you should consider the questions: How might the findings be incorrect? Are there plausible interpretations and validity threats? If so, how will you deal with these? How can the collected data challenge your ideas? Why should anyone believe your results? What are the Guidelines in writing a research title? You should consider the following criteria in choosing a research title:



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- **Problem Characteristics.** You should consider its Novelty and Originality. This means that the chosen topic must be appraised if it is unique or are there many types of research done similar to it. The Practical Value – Availability of Data should also be considered. This means that you should know where to get the data source. This includes who, where, and when will you conduct the study. This may pose danger to the researcher/s.



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- **Researcher's Characteristics.** This is something to do with the researcher's special Qualification which means are there particular skills that the researcher possesses that should be considered. Like is the researcher good in talking, or counseling or writing, or gathering notes? The researcher's interest is another factor in this element. This means that the topic should be chosen solely by the researcher/s because it is his/her interest to do the research. The reason could base on experience, practicability or it could be a HOT topic.



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- **Process Feasibility.** This has something to do with Time requirement. Is the topic doable in a period? Consider the semester time in your school. How about Cost? Because fieldwork may entail expenses. Do not forget the Hazards and Hazard ships that the researcher may undertake to gather the data.



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How to Narrow Down the Topic Selected?

It is simple, you should make a matrix specifying the General topic, the narrowed-down topic, and then narrowed down the further topic. In this case, your topic would be specific and has focus. Table 1 presents the matrix.

GENERAL TOPIC	NARROWED DOWN TOPIC	NARROWEDDOWN FURTHER
Philippine Music	Contemporary Phil. Music	Pinoy Rock
Darwin's Theory Of Evolution	The Search for the Missing Link	Australopithecines
Environment	Water Pollution	The Pasig River Rehabilitation Project
Plants	Herbal plants	Inhibitory Effects Of plant extracts



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MAKING THE TITLE

Art in Stating the Title. You can be creative and go out from the traditional system of following the title proposal, just be guided by the following: The general thought has to be present; the shortest title possible; eye-catching, modern touch; and Play with words.



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Why should you provide reasons for conducting the Research?

You should justify researching so it will give a background or a scenario that will provide compelling reasons why you are conducting the study. The study could be beneficial in a lot of reasons:

1. Research can find answers to things that are unknown, filling gaps in knowledge, and changing the way that society/system works.
2. Research can also validate existing methods and approaches if it is effective or should be modified.
3. Research can also provide general or individualistic information that could be useful to the existing knowledge
4. Qualitative research topics can also be done to make case studies that are unique and emerging
5. Phenomenological studies could also gather similarity of perceptions and lived experiences.
6. Research can also be done because it is part of society's sustainable development program as a theme.