

Group Activities

The Selection of a Research Topic

Suppose you and your classmates have formed a research team. Select a topic that you would like to study. Examples of topics include adolescent smoking, recovery from a natural disaster, health research, organizations and leadership, or student retention in college. Note how you might address each of the following components in the design of a proposed study about your selected topic.

Topic?	
What is already known about the topic	
What would you like to learn about this topic?	
How would you add to this topic? What would your study add to the literature that already exists?	
What are some implications of this for your study to social work research, practice and policy?	
Which of the three types of design will	

you use and why?	
Which strategy of inquiry will you use and why?	
What are some research methods that you will employ?	

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Chapter 1: The Selection of a Research Approach

Suppose you and your classmates have formed a research team. Select a topic that you would like to study. Examples of topics include adolescent smoking, recovery from a natural disaster, health research, organizations and leadership, or student retention in college.

Note how you might address each of the following components in the design of a proposed study about your selected topic.

Topic?	
What would you like to learn about this topic?	
Which of the three types of design will you use and why?	
Which strategy of inquiry will you use and why?	

What are some research methods that you will employ?	
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Group Activities

Review of the Literature

Suppose you and your classmates have formed a research team. Select a topic that you would like to study. Examples of topics include adolescent smoking, recovery from a natural disaster, or student retention in college. Note how you might plan to search the literature in preparation for a proposed study about your selected topic.

The topic?	Our study is about:
Working title for your project?	
What central question do you want to answer?	
What keywords will you use to search the literature based on your topic and title?	
What type of literature will you try to identify?	
Based on the type of approach (qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods), what will the role of the literature be in the	

study?	
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Group Activities

Chapter 6: The Purpose Statement

Suppose you and your classmates have formed a research team. Select a topic that you would like to study. Examples of topics include adolescent smoking, recovery from a natural disaster, or student retention in college. Note how you might address each of the following elements of the purpose statement for a proposed study about your selected topic.

If the study is qualitative or mixed methods

Qualitative strategy of inquiry	
Action verb	
Central phenomenon	
Participants	
Research site	
Working definition of the central phenomenon	

If the study is quantitative or mixed methods

Quantitative strategy of inquiry	
Theory being tested	
Independent variable(s)	
Dependent variable(s)	
Control variable(s)	

If the study is mixed methods

Mixed methods design	
Reasons for combining both	

types of data	
Type of quantitative data collection	
Type of qualitative data collection	

Using the scripts from the instructions for mini proposal, write a purpose statement for your study:

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Group Activities

Quantitative Methods

You selected your topic that you would like to study. Now how you might address the elements of the quantitative methods for the proposed study about your selected topic.

If the study is a survey

Research topic	
The survey design	
Purpose of the survey	
Survey type	
The population and sample	
The population	
Sampling design and selection process and rationale	
Sampling frame	

Instrumentation	
Survey instrument	
Sample item	
Variables in the study and levels of measurement	
Data analysis and interpretation	
Expected response rate	
Concerns about response bias	
Example of descriptive analyses	
Example of inferential analyses	

Sampling

For each scenario, identify an appropriate sampling technique and explain why.

1. You are conducting a process evaluation and you want to know how you can improve the delivery of services to your clients. You are trying to improve the CBT program, the mentoring program and the parent enrichment programs.
2. You are interested in knowing what social workers employed at the DC Children and Family Services Agency (CSFA) think about the new legislation "Safe family and Adoption Act". You are interested in knowing how the policy is impacting the clients.
3. You are an evaluator and the funder has asked you do assess if the agency is achieving its outcome. The outcomes are 80% of clients will be employed, 80% of the clients will stop using drugs, 100% will report that that they are satisfied with the program. They want to generalize these findings to the entire population of their clients. They have 5000 clients.
4. You are an evaluator and the funder has asked you do assess if the agency is using the money in the most efficient ways. They also want you to make recommendations about the program. They are interested in knowing if the intake process is working, the discharge process is effective, whether it makes sense to do individual therapy or group therapy. They want you to include clients, but you do not know where all of them are
5. You are piloting a new intervention designed to decrease violence among older people. Violence among older people is a new phenomenon and you don't want to injure the elderly and are unsure of the activities and need to ascertain if the activities are appropriate for the elderly.

Social Work 697
Research Methods for Social Workers
Asynchronous Lecture and Assignment

Attached is an information sheet for a research study entitled *Foreclosure and Migration into the Rental Housing Market: An Assessment of Adolescents' Wellbeing Following Foreclosure in the District of Columbia*. For this assignment please answer the following questions. Please use an brief essay format. Bullets and one sentence answer/responses will not be accepted and will receive no credit. This assignment is worth an extra 5 points towards an assignment of your choice. You must answer questions 1-8. However, chose either 9 or 10 to answer. You may use any resource you have and **should not** collaborate with other pairs of students.

1. Identify the problem under investigation (problem being researched)
2. Identify the research question or a potential research question
3. This study has several dependent variables identify two and their levels of measurement
4. What is the independent variable(s)
5. What is the unit of analysis?
6. What is the research approach (qualitative or Quantitative or Mixed methods)
7. What is the research design survey or correlational (explain why -how do you know)?
8. What sample technique are they using and why it is appropriate?
9. What are they planning to do with the information they obtain from the study?
10. What is the relevance of the study to social work?

***NOTE this assignment will assess if and how much you know about basic information covered thus far. I will be looking for why you have selected your answers. So, your answers to the above questions should include your explanation for your response. GOOD LUCK**

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