

Choose one of the following questions:

- A. A researcher wants to study undocumented immigrants' use of health care in the Tri-state area. She is particularly concerned about the availability of undocumented immigrants and their willingness to participate in a study. The chair of her department wants her to modify his survey instrument so he can have more data for his statistical analysis. However, she feels she will get better information from using qualitative methods. She needs to present to her chair a well thought out proposal to convince him that she is correct.

Identify at least two qualitative methods she could use and discuss in detail the advantages and disadvantages of each method, including how the researcher will identify potential study participants or sources of data, how the data would be collected and analyzed, and how the results could compare or contrast with the survey the chair proposes.

- B. The State of WV, Department of Aging Services has sent you a "Request for Proposal" to evaluate the effectiveness of the Senior Lunch Programs at Senior Centers around the state. Getting this contract would be very valuable to your company and your career. Your supervisor has given you the time and resources necessary to complete the proposal.

You have decided that you need to visit a sample of senior centers in both rural and urban areas, and that observations combined with in-depth interviews of seniors and center staff would be the best methods of gathering data. Describe how you will select your samples. Provide a list of concepts (and how you would identify and measure them) as well as the two different interview guides you might use. How will you determine the validity of your method and reliability of your data? Discuss the potential advantages and disadvantages of your strategy. Would another method be more effective?

- C. The US Food and Drug Administration started a new campaign to address nutrition and obesity. They have spent a great deal of money on informative websites, brochures, and public service print and television ads. You are teaching a research methods class to undergraduate dietitians and want to develop a content analysis assignment that examines the materials provided by the FDA.

How would you go about developing the assignment? What content will be analyzed? How will it be coded? What will students need to learn and how will they conduct the analysis? What would be the steps they need to take to complete the assignment? What alternative research method could you have chosen instead?