

Notes from Review of Assignment #1: Qualitative Interview Guide

1. Take an adequate amount of time for qualitative interviews—30 minutes is typically not enough. At least one hour, preferably longer depending on the population
2. Make questions less personalized when possible, at least early in the interview. For example, instead of “How did you cope with being sexually abused?” consider “How do you think people generally cope with having been sexually abused?” Avoid the using questions beginning with “*Why* did you...?” Instead, consider alternatives like “Tell me what you were thinking when...” or “What do you think most people would do in this situation?”
3. Hypotheses and statements about correlation are not typically used in qualitative introduction and method sections. But they can and should be used for Mixed Methods studies describing the quantitative component.
4. In most circumstances, avoid statements like “*The literature shows that these factors, X, Y and Z, are important.* What do you think?” This will bias the response. Instead, just ask the respondent’s opinion about factors X, Y and Z and their importance, from his/her point of view.
5. “Gender” in an interview protocol: code from observation. (A self-report instrument can ask “What is your gender?”)
6. In the Informed Consent, when mentioning child abuse as an exception for maintaining confidentiality, keep it short and businesslike using standard language, such as

“There are two exceptions to keeping this information confidential. By law I am required to report suspected child abuse to the authorities. I am also required to report if you state you are a danger to yourself or others.”