

## Research Methods Round Robin

**Objective:** To experience different research methods  
To understand the pros and cons of different research methods

**Materials:** Copies of: Survey, Interview Questions, and Worksheets  
Digital Camera/Polaroid Camera, along with 2 sets of chart paper for each station

**Source:** YELL curriculum

**Do/Experience:** Split up into 5 groups. This activity is a round robin. At each station, groups will experience a different research method and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this method in regards to their research question.

**Note:** If you do not yet have a finalized topic, you can still do this activity. However, once a topic is decided, the group will need to revisit the pros and cons to find the best methods for their situation.

Each group will be at each station for no more than 5 minutes. Make sure the group understands that this activity is to get an idea of what this method is.

The stations are:

Station 1: Survey

Station 2: Photovoice

Station 3: Interview

Station 4: Focus Group

Station 5: Journal Entry

**Process:** After groups have gone to all stations, be sure to talk about the different methods, ask the youth for their general feedback.

Which method did you like the best/the least?

What kind of information do you get from the different methods?

What is the value of this method?

What resources would we need for this method?

How much time would we need to use this method?

**Label:** All of these methods have their pros and cons.

**Demonstrate:**

**Version One:** In new groups of 5-6 youth, each group should fill out a worksheet about the pros and cons of each method. Once all groups are done, then as an entire group collect information on a large flip chart.

**Version Two:** In new groups of 5-6 youth, each group is going to stand at one of 5 stations.

Each station has a chart that looks like this:

Method: \_\_\_\_\_

**What type of information is this good for?**

**Examples:**

**Pros**

**Cons**

At their first station, each group will complete: What type of information is this good for, and provide examples?

After 3-5 minutes, all groups will rotate to the next station.

At Station Two, groups fill out as many Pros as they can.

At Station Three, groups add to the list of Pros.

At Station Four, groups fill out as many Cons as they can.

At Station Five, groups add to the list of Cons.

At Station Six (\*all groups are back at their original station), groups should review what is written and report out to the larger group.

**Review:** What method do you think will be best for our topic? Why?

**Methods Worksheet**

<b>Method</b>	What type of information is this good for?	Example	Pros	Cons
<b>Interview</b>				
<b>Survey</b>				
<b>Photo</b>				
<b>Journal</b>				
<b>Focus Group</b>				

**Survey:**

Age (Circle One):    14                    15                    16                    17                    18

Gender:                    Female                    Male                    Transgender

For each statement circle a number that describes how true it is for you, using the scale below.

	Not True For Me	1	2	Somewhat True for Me	3	4	Very True For Me	5
I belong in this school.	1	2	3	4	5			
I am happier when I am at school than when I am not at school.	1	2	3	4	5			
I feel bored at school.	1	2	3	4	5			
I do not feel like I am important here.	1	2	3	4	5			
Most of the time, being at school puts me in a good mood.	1	2	3	4	5			
When I am in a bad mood, I find it hard to concentrate on my schoolwork.	1	2	3	4	5			
I feel like I matter in this school.	1	2	3	4	5			
I feel like teachers in this school respect my opinion.	1	2	3	4	5			
School often makes me feel bad.	1	2	3	4	5			
I feel like teachers in this school really care about students as individuals.	1	2	3	4	5			
School often makes me feel bad.	1	2	3	4	5			
I like school.	1	2	3	4	5			

These questions are about how interesting the activities were that you did last week. (If you did not do one activity, you may skip the questions about how interesting that activity was).

	Very Interesting 4	Sort Of Interesting 3	Not Very Interesting 2	Not at all Interesting 1
Homework or Studying	4	3	2	1
Community Service or Volunteer Work	4	3	2	1
Organized Sports (Class or Team)	4	3	2	1
Art, music, dance or drama class or lesson.	4	3	2	1
Parties, dance, or trips planned by community programs or centers.	4	3	2	1
Organized Sports (Class or Team)	4	3	2	1
Religious Activities (like going to church)	4	3	2	1
Watching television (including dvds/videos)	4	3	2	1
Playing video games	4	3	2	1
Reading	4	3	2	1
Hang out with friends	4	3	2	1
After-school tutoring	4	3	2	1

In this country people come from a lot of different cultures and there are many different words to describe backgrounds or ethnic groups.

My ethnicity is: (please write in a number or numbers from the list below)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1= American Indian                        | 5= Pacific Islander   |
| 2= Asian or Asian-American                | 6= White, Caucasian, European, Anglo-American, not Hispanic |
| 3= Black or African-American              | 7= Mixed; parents from two or more different groups         |
| 4= Hispanic or Latino or Mexican-American | 8= Other  |

The next set of questions is about your and your parents' ethnicity or ethnic group.

- My father's ethnicity is (use numbers above) \_\_\_\_\_
- My mother's ethnicity is (use numbers above) \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your help!

### Photovoice Station

**Directions:** Use a digital or Polaroid camera to take 3-5 pictures that capture how you feel about being a part of this school/community/organization. Use materials that are in this room and/or people in your group to create your images. Write a caption for each picture that you take that would help others to understand your experience.

Photo 1: (briefly describe the picture)

Caption 1:

Photo 2: (briefly describe the picture)

Caption 2:

Photo 3: (briefly describe the picture)

Caption 3

Photo 4: (briefly describe the picture)

Caption 4:

## Interview Questions

**Directions:** Within your group, get into pairs. Each pair will take turns interviewing the other person using these questions.

**Question 1:** Tell me, what it's like in your school?

### Follow Up Questions:

- How would you describe your school?
- What are your classes like? What kinds of things do you do in them?
- What are your teachers like? What's your relationship like with them? Do you talk to them about stuff?
- How do you feel about how you are doing in school this year?
- Do you have a favorite class? Why is it your favorite?
- Is there a class you really don't like? Why?
- Is school important to you? What about it is important?
- How would you describe yourself when you're at school?
- Do you like being at school?
- How do kids treat each other at school?

## **Focus Group:**

**Directions:** One person should lead the focus group, starting with the main question and using any of the below follow-up questions.

**Question 2:** Tell me, what your neighborhood is like?

### **Follow Up Questions:**

- What is it like to grow up in your neighborhood?
- Where is it in relation to your school?
- Do people look out for each other?
- Is there stuff for kids your age to do?
- Are there places you like to go to hang out? What about places you know you should avoid?
- Are there adults who you hang out with or spend time with?
- Do you have a special role or reputation in your neighborhood?
- Is there anything that I didn't ask you about that you would like to add about any of these topics?



## Journal Prompt

**Directions:** Spend the next 5 minutes writing about your experience at school.

- Do you like being at school? Why or why not?
- How are you treated by adults?
- How are you treated by youth?
- Do you have input into what happens at school?
- Does this school offer you what you need?
- If this school could be a better place for you, what would need to change?

**Pros and Cons Sheet**  
**(\*Include these if students do not bring them up!)**

Method	Type of Information this is Good For	Pros	Cons
Surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What they like and dislike?</li> <li>• What they need or don't need?</li> <li>• What youth already know?</li> <li>• What are basic ideas for how youth feel?</li> <li>• What information will help other's understand?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easy to understand.</li> <li>• Easy to refer back to answers.</li> <li>• Can easily see "likes" and "dislikes".</li> <li>• Can translate into "facts".</li> <li>• If on a computer, get instant results.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answers may change depending on a person's mood.</li> <li>• Question might be understood differently than the way you anticipated.</li> <li>• People may not complete it</li> <li>• Some might think it's too long.</li> <li>• People can't write their own answers in.</li> <li>• Might take too much time.</li> <li>• Best done on a computer.</li> </ul>
Interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finding out reactions.</li> <li>• Find out point of view.</li> <li>• Find out how and what they think about community.</li> <li>• Find out from people other than youth.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get to hear emotions of your interviewees.</li> <li>• You know exactly what is said.</li> <li>• There is more room to ask follow up questions</li> <li>• There is room to explain if someone doesn't understand the question.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Might say what they think they should answer.</li> <li>• Might act silly because it's being recorded.</li> <li>• Might be too shy to answer.</li> <li>• Can't record a person's expression.</li> <li>• Recorder might not work the way you want</li> <li>• Need to transcribe all the information.</li> <li>• Takes a lot of time to do each interview.</li> </ul>
Photovoice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to find out information behind the scenes.</li> <li>• Gives examples/"proof" about the conditions.</li> <li>• Points out things others may not see.</li> <li>• Show what happens in real life.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get to use a camera.</li> <li>• You can capture the moment.</li> <li>• Camera is portable.</li> <li>• Shows people what's going on?</li> <li>• Helps people to picture things and understand your side.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can only take a picture of one spot in time.</li> <li>• Quality of camera may not be good.</li> <li>• Would need to ask for permission and some people might say no.</li> <li>• Cameras could be expensive</li> <li>• People might not think its real research.</li> </ul>
Videotaping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documenting people's reactions to things.</li> <li>• Finding out how things can be changed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can see people's reactions</li> <li>• Can see what the person look like.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People might be shy.</li> <li>• People might not say the truth because it's on video</li> <li>• Need video cameras.</li> </ul>
Focus Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finding out similarities and differences between people.</li> <li>• Find out what things people agree and disagree on.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can interview groups in the same neighborhood or grade more easily.</li> <li>• Can give people a chance to talk among themselves about an issue</li> <li>• Can hear from lots of people at one time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finding a time when everyone can do it.</li> <li>• People might feel uncomfortable talking in the group</li> <li>• Need to be a strong facilitator to run the group.</li> </ul>