

Article Reading Two: Interpretive Method Essay

This is an article that would be classified as qualitative research. As many authors have noted, qualitative research often makes use of multiple methods and sometimes does make use of “counting stuff” as part of providing a rich description of the issues being studied. Note how Kember weaves together a variety of different sources of data along with existing theory to support the claims being made.

First, read the entire article. On the first reading, just read it to get a bigger picture of what the scholar is trying to communicate. Second, read the article again with these questions in mind. Some of the questions focus on your ability to comprehend the article. Other questions address your understanding the methodological choices the author made.

Article Comprehension

1. What is the purpose of this study?
 - a. to provide evidence that students do too much homework.
 - b. to provide evidence that students really aren't doing that much homework.
 - c. to examine the student workload and student perceptions of workload
 - d. to examine what method of student assessment is the most effective
2. Which key terms is not defined in the literature review?
 - a. perception
 - b. teacher effectiveness
 - c. curriculum variables
 - d. workload
3. Student workload is described as
 - a. number of hours students report they spend in independent study
 - b. number of hours students perceive that they take classes
 - c. number of hours in class or tutoring
 - d. number of hours worked (both in class and independent study)

Method

4. What are two questions the researchers glean from the literature regarding variables in the teaching and learning environment which relate to workload?
5. What forms of data collection were used in this study?
6. Which procedure did the authors not use in collecting interview data?
 - a. interviews were held shortly after the week in which the diary was completed
 - b. all interviews were with students who had completed a diary
 - c. there was an equal representation of male and female subjects
 - d. if someone wasn't willing to be interviewed, a further selection was made

7. The inferences drawn from the data collection did not center on which area?

- a. effects of parental support for student
- b. workload and learning approaches
- c. content and difficulty
- d. relationships between time and workload

8. Our text offers some basic obligations for doing qualitative research. Rate how well you think the author did by circling the number that best reflects you perceptions.

a. Explain when the fieldwork was conducted:

Not well 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Very Well

b. Describe the extent and length of his or her involvement in the interaction environment:

Not well 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Very Well

c. Provide information about the participants and the communication context and scene:

Not well 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Very Well

d. Describe the steps and methods for analyzing the data:

Not well 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Very Well

e. Provide evidence that the data were triangulated:

Not well 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Very Well

Reflections and Connections

9. List 2 thoughtful questions you would ask the authors about this research.

10. Which student do you feel you most resemble? Why?