**Prep Task #11**

...a start to your Methods section and a (hopefully) final review of your Proposal...

**GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS & PURPOSES OF EACH METHOD**

- **Action research**
  - A type of applied research that focuses on finding a solution to a local problem in a local setting. For example, a teacher might investigate whether a new spelling program she has adopted leads to improvement in her students' achievement scores. *What is the precise location? What is the potential solution? How will you gather data to determine the solution's effectiveness?*

- **Case study**
  - Ch. 9
  - A type of qualitative research in which in-depth data are gathered relative to a single individual, program, or event for the purpose of learning more about an unknown or poorly understood situation. *Who or what specifically will be the focus of your research? What is the purpose of learning more about this person or thing?*

- **Content analysis**
  - Ch. 9
  - A detailed and systematic examination of the contents of a particular body of material (e.g., television shows, magazine advertisements, Internet websites, works of art) for the purpose of identifying patterns, themes, or biases within that material. *What is the scope of material you will be examining? What sort of patterns, themes, issues, or biases do you intend to identify? How will you organize and present your findings?*

- **Correlational research**
  - A statistical investigation of the relationships between two or more variables. Correlational research looks at surface relationships but does not necessarily probe for causal reasons underlying them. For example, a researcher might investigate the relationships among high school seniors' achievement test scores and the grade point average a year later when they are first-year college students. *What data will you be analyzing? What are the variables involved? What are the correlations?*

- **Design-based research**
  - A multistep, iterative study in which certain instructional strategies or technologies are implemented, evaluated, and modified to determine possible factors influencing learning or performance. *What is the purpose of your study? What are the factors you are investigating? What are the implications of your findings?*

- **Developmental research**
  - Ch. 6
  - An observational-descriptive type of research that compares people in different age groups (a cross-sectional study) in order to look for developmental trends. *What kinds of data will you be collecting? How will you collect it? What two specific age groups will you be comparing?*

- **Ethnography**
  - Ch. 9
  - A type of qualitative inquiry that involves an in-depth study of an intact cultural group in a natural setting. *What specific cultural group will you be studying? Why is this group important? What are the goals of your research? What kind of data will you be gathering? How will you analyze it?*

- **Experimental research**
  - Ch. 7
  - A study in which participants are randomly assigned to groups that undergo various researcher-imposed treatments or interventions, followed by observations or measurements to assess the effects of the treatments. *What is the experimental design? What are the groups? What are the treatments? What are the outcomes?*

- **Ex post facto research**
  - Ch. 7
  - An approach in which one looks at conditions that have already occurred and then collects data to investigate a possible relationship between these conditions and subsequent characteristics or behaviors. *What specific past conditions will you be studying? What are your hypotheses regarding a relationship between these conditions? How will you collect data?*

- **Grounded theory research**
  - Ch. 9
  - A type of qualitative research aimed at deriving theory through the use of multiple stages of data collection and interpretation. *What data will you be collecting? How will you analyze it? What is the purpose of your research?*

- **Historical research**
  - Ch. 10
  - An effort to reconstruct or interpret historical events through the gathering and interpretation of relevant historical documents and/or oral histories. *What kind of documents will you be collecting? How will you analyze them? What is the purpose of your research?*

- **Observation study**
  - Ch. 6
  - A type of quantitative research in which a particular aspect of behavior is observed systematically and, with as much objectivity as possible, *What data will you be collecting? How will you analyze them? What is the purpose of your research?*

- **Phenomenological research**
  - Ch. 9
  - A qualitative method that attempts to understand participants' perspectives and views of physical or social realities. *What physical or social reality will you be exploring? What are your intended participants? What are their perspectives important to your research problem? How will you collect data?*

- **Quasi-experimental research**
  - Ch. 7
  - A method similar to experimental research but without random assignment to groups. *What are the conditions? What are the participants? What are the outcomes?*

- **Survey research**
  - Ch. 6
  - A study designed to determine the incidence, frequency, and distribution of certain characteristics in a population, especially common in business, sociology, and government research. *What population will you be surveying? What characteristics will you be determining? How will you determine the characteristics of a certain population? How will you collect data?*

- **Mixed Methods**
  - Ch. 12
  - A research design that involves not only collecting, analyzing, and interpreting both quantitative and qualitative data but also integrating conclusions from these data into a cohesive whole. *Describe your research design. Describe your method. Describe your data.*