

Pregnancy/Birth or Adoption Interview Research Project

Due 2/26/14

Purpose of the Assignment

- *To practice the skills of attentive listening, open-ended questioning, and eliciting information in a non-judgmental manner.*
- *To develop a deeper understanding of the complex interrelationship of personal, social, and cultural events, which shape the experience of pregnancy and birth or adoption*

There are **three** parts to the *Pregnancy/Birth or Adoption Interview Assignment*. The final report includes written work based on each part of the assignment.

Part I: Interview Techniques: formulating interview questions.

Part II: Independent Interview

Part III: Assessment, Reflection, and Evaluation: Writing about Pregnancy and Birth or Adoption

Part I: Interview Techniques

In class, students will practice skills and techniques for interviewing: attentive listening, open-ended questions, non-judgmental and non-biased questions, organizing a thorough and sequential question list, neutral probes, flexibility. (See *Interview Techniques* distributed in class last week.)

Part II: Independent Interview

Each student interviews one parent about a pregnancy/birth or adoption. (*If you interview someone who has more than one child, she/he must choose one pregnancy and birth or adoption to talk about during the interview*). Students prepare a written list of questions prior to the interview, use the prepared list as a foundation during the interview process, and take notes documenting the entire interview. You can do a phone interview also, but an in person one is encouraged.

The ideal setting for the interview is an uninterrupted hour in a comfortable quiet place with only you and the person you are interviewing (the “interviewee”) present. Use your written list of questions as a foundation for the interview. You may decide that some questions are not necessary, that new questions should be included. You will probably need to add some follow-up questions and neutral probes. Be flexible, using your original list to maintain a logical sequence and focus to the interview. Take detailed notes documenting the entire interview. If you prefer to tape record the interview instead of taking written notes, make sure the tape recorder is working correctly and that you and the interviewee can be heard and understood on the recording.

Review your notes as soon as possible after the interview. Write a transcription of the pregnancy, birth or adoption story you heard in your interview. Please use a clear question and answer format. Include any neutral probes or follow-up questions that you added during the interview.

Part III – Assessment, Reflection and Evaluation

Assessment: Thinking and Writing About the Interviews

1. Write an essay relating one aspect of your interview to something you read in Chapters 3 and 4 of the text. ** (31 students only)

*** Be sure to include an introduction and conclusion. Please use APA format to cite your textbook and other sources. The elements of writing will constitute a portion of your grade so pay attention to grammar, spelling and idea development in your paragraphs. If your focus is an adoption you may need to use outside resources to analyze your data.*

Reflection and Evaluation: Thinking About Yourself (31 & 131 students)

Save all opinions for this section...

2. What was the interview process like for you? How difficult or easy was it to keep yourself out of the interview and to remain non-judgmental? Why?
3. Give examples of how you adapted your original question list during the actual interview (i.e. adding or eliminating a question, using a neutral probe or follow-up question). Explain why the adaptation was necessary.
4. What was the most interesting part of this assignment to you? Why?

The Final Report

Handwritten work must be legible, in blue or black ink, using one side of the page only. Typed or word-processed work must use font size 12. Please clearly title each section.

In a notebook or stapled together, turn in:

- List of Questions prepared for your interview
- One page excerpt from your interview transcript showing the use of neutral probes and follow-up questions
- Assessment, Reflection, Evaluation

(questions #1-4 for ECE 31 students / questions #2-4 for ECE 131 students)