



Understanding the “Why”:

MAKING THE CASE FOR QUALITATIVE EVALUATION
METHODS IN A STEM (QUANTITATIVE) WORLD

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- **Former Chairman, National Dropout Prevention Center**
- **Research Fellow, Clemson University/NDPC**
- **National Vice President and Superintendent of Schools, Catapult Learning**
- **Assistant State Superintendent and Deputy Chief State School Officer, District of Columbia Public Schools**
- **Senior leadership roles (CEO, Provost/VPAA, VPIA) at colleges and universities in the Mid-Atlantic and Southern states**
- **Echoing Green public service fellow '96**
- **Assistant/Visiting Professor, College of Education, Delta State University**
- **Education**
 - **Doctor of Education, Peabody College of Vanderbilt University**
 - **Master of Education from Harvard University**
 - **Master of Science from Clark Atlanta University**
 - **Bachelor of Science from Edward Waters College**



My Family



HERO



(S)HERO



Echoing Green

- ▶ <http://www.echoinggreen.org/fellowship>
- ▶ Counselor: Mr. Evanson (Carpentry, Brick Masonry...for future Harvard/MIT graduates)
- ▶ Awareness would increase access to 4-yr universities (top tier)
- ▶ This would produce highly passionate/skilled leaders
- ▶ Work to end poverty
- ▶ Followed a cohort of 35 students for 4 years (grades 9-12)
- ▶ Emphasis on Algebra/Geometry (100% passage), ACT (22 avg), and college tours (60 institutions including Harvard, Dartmouth, Rice, Fisk, Spelman, JCSmith)
- ▶ Lots of tutoring and mentoring
- ▶ 28 enrolled in college (generally same as before), 5 military, 1 Sonic, 1 Casino
- ▶ Stories: "Play the piano".....Yale/Car
- ▶ Fast Forward: Vandy doctorate (ABD 4 yrs)...perplexing question (goal was college prez)

RESEARCH

Seek to generate
new knowledge

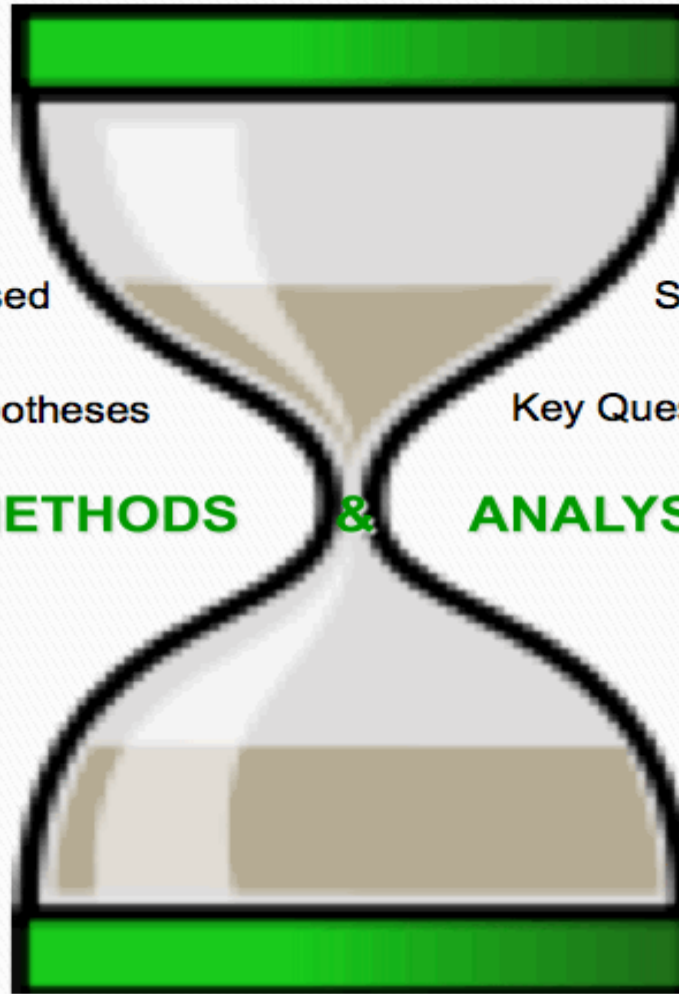
Researcher-focused

Hypotheses

METHODS

Make research
recommendations

Publish results



EVALUATION

Information for
decision making

Stakeholder-focused

Key Questions

ANALYSIS

Recommendations
based on key questions

Report to stakeholders



qualitative

research

PhD method education anthropology diverse place professional response activity unique journalist students active suggests

novice meaning get focus different appears community Jacob ways specific evident important like methods Thus class

exercise et much still go notes academic mind observation social observer paradigm common

others Jacob's take read hand far real tool understanding participant sense perspectives researcher also

planning knowledge language study process researchers well yet conduct sense perspectives researcher also

experience information culture assumptions epistemological reflexivity time especially participants may researcher also

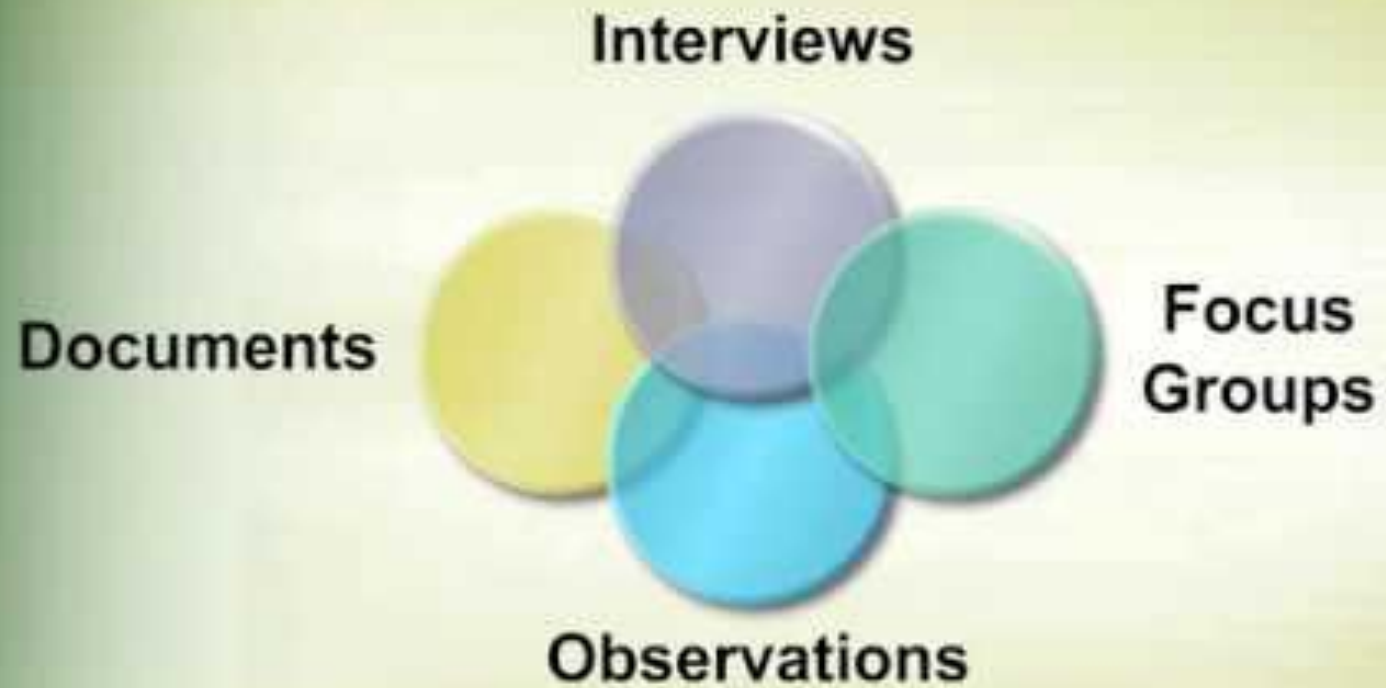
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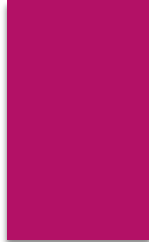
contexts collection nature James access observing importance learning observe become Finally something use methodological end similar just

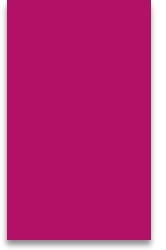
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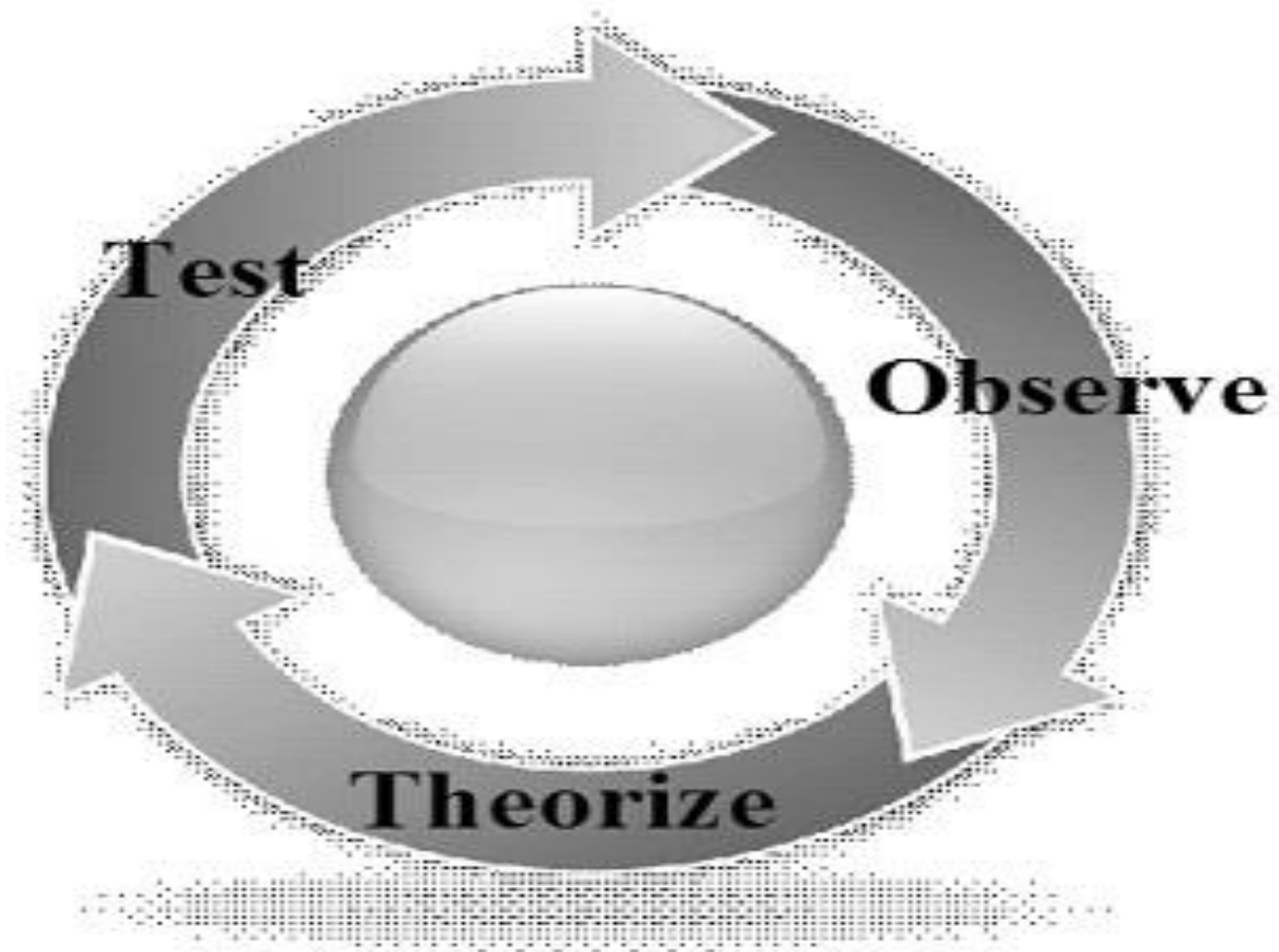
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What are Qualitative Data?









Group Activity

▶ **Don't Miss the Train!**

Don't Miss the Train

▶ Culture Matters

▶ Context Matters

▶ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dsi_ItK-j30