



Politics and Society Small Research Project Guide and Reflection

This guide acts as one possible support to the four stages of a small research project as outlined on Pg. 16 of the subject specification: *Design, Data Collection, Analysis, and Write-up*. The Small Research Project can help you understand how robust social research is conducted as well as how to critically evaluate the quality of findings.

1. Design Stage

1 (a) Research Question:

1 (b) Rationale and Aims:

Why is this research important? Can it contribute new knowledge to a relevant field? Is it clearly linked to learning outcomes and relevant thinkers?

Aims:

1 (c) Conceptualising:

Key Concepts: What are the main concerns of the research question? (Power and Decision Making, Human Rights, Democracy, Justice, Equity, etc.), and what can it help us better understand?

Research Methodology: What kind of evidence will best answer the research question? Quantitative Data (e.g., numbers, statistics)? Qualitative Data (e.g., experiences opinions, themes)? A mixture of both?

Methodologies:

- Chosen method(s):
Survey () Interview () Observation () Focus Group () Other:

- How do these methodologies support the research aims?

Participants:

How can participants be selected? (e.g., random sampling, cluster sampling, stratified sampling, etc.)

1 (d) Ethical Considerations:

- () I/We have considered confidentiality and anonymity.
- () I/We will obtain informed consent from participants.
- () I/We have minimised potential for harm or distress.

[2. Data Collection & 3. Analysis](#)

2 (a) Data Collection Log:

Have you made a separate and secure record of collected data? This can include key information such as date, participant/subject ID (anonymised), key relevant data, and notes and reflections on the data.

3 (a) Data Analysis Stage:

What does the collected data say about the research question?

3 (b) Collating Evidence:

Briefly describe how you organised your data (e.g., transcribing interviews, tallying survey responses, grouping observations).

3 (c) Conclusions:

Based on the collected data, what conclusions can be made?

3 (d) Thinking about Oversight and Quality:

Have you consulted peers, a teacher, or a person with a relevant skillset, to review the research? Include comments/observations below:

How might your research design (sample size, margin of error, method, questions, etc.) have impacted the quality of the research conclusions?

4. Write-Up & Reflection

4 (a) Presenting Findings:

How can you present findings effectively? (e.g., a short report with headings, a presentation with slides, a poster with text and images/charts, etc.). Consider strengths and limitations associated with different mods of communication.

4 (b) Key Points to Communicate:

4 (c) Critical Evaluating the Research Process:

Evaluating Evidence Quality: Critically reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of the evidence you gathered. Consider its reliability and validity.

4 (d) Evaluating Conclusions: How confident are you in the conclusions you have drawn? To what extent can they be generalised, and what further research would be needed?
