

Methods that you can use to study education

No study method is perfect. There are good things and bad things about each method. You must decide which method is best for your chosen study and why.

Secondary data

These are books and the Internet. Secondary data comes from other people's work. You should do this for any study because you need to understand what other people have said about the problem that you wish to discuss.

Interviewing People

Ask people detailed questions about the topic and get them to give you long answers.

Designing a questionnaire

Write down a number of questions and ask people to fill in a form. This method is best for discovering factual information about people.

Observing people

This simply means that you watch people behaving naturally over a period of time and watch what they do. You could watch children in a playground to see the differences between the way that girls and boys behave.

Designing an experiment to carry out

You will need to see your teacher, but this is a case of designing an experiment to see how people react when you test them.

Case study

You could study one person in detail over a period of time to show what has happened in their lives.

Content analysis

This is most useful for studying school books when you look at exactly what is written and then you analyse it.