

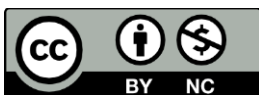
Sociological Methods

Your group is interested in researching student retention at BMCC. As a group, come up with a research question (factual, comparative, developmental or theoretical) and select two research methods (ethnography, surveys, comparative research, historical analysis or experiment) that you would use to investigate your question.

Question (make sure to include what kind of question it is):

Method 1 (give some detail and explain why you would use it):

Method 2 (give some detail and explain why you would use it together with your first method):



Kinds of questions sociologists ask:

- Factual/empirical – what happened?
- Comparative – did this happen in the same way everywhere?
- Developmental – has this happened over time?
- Theoretical – what underlies this phenomenon?

Research methods sociologists use:

- **Ethnography**: first-hand studies of people by means of **participant observation** or **interviewing**
- **Surveys**: method in which questionnaires are administered to the population being studied
- **Experiments**: variables are analyzed in a controlled and systematic way often in an artificial situation constructed by the researcher or in naturally occurring settings
- **Comparative research**: compares one set of findings on one society with the same set of findings on other societies
- **Historical analysis**: investigating past events in order to establish a time perspective for the material we collect about a particular problem

