

Sample Activities

1. The following is an excerpt from a research project. Please read it carefully and answer the questions below. Please do NOT critique writing. Rather focus on the research design content.

“The purpose of this study was to investigate the effect of incorporating lifetime fitness activities versus team game sports on the overall active student participation level and positive student attitude of middle school physical education (PE) students. Using a predominately qualitative and experimental research design, it was found after a lifetime fitness activities unit was incorporated the amount of students participating in aerobic activity during PE increased 61% for 7th grade students and 55% for 8th grade students. A t-test for independent means was run on pretest and post-test attitude inventory scores regarding student enjoyment of PE activities. No significant differences were found. Through qualitative observation, the researcher determined that the most effective approach to running a successful PE program is to add fitness components along with normal skill-based PE activities (Hollenbaugh, 2001).”

- A. Using the table below, please outline the major strengths and weaknesses of this study.

Strengths	Weaknesses

- B. What questions are unanswered in your mind concerning this project?
 - C. Please redesign this project as you feel it should be completed.
 - D. What ethical issues arise with implementation of this study?

2. The following is an excerpt from a research project. Please read it carefully and answer the questions below. Please do NOT critique writing. Rather focus on the research design content.

“ In order to achieve greater diversity in the science related work force, it is necessary to motivate inner city youths to study science at an early age. This study examined the changes in selected inner city 6th grade students’ motivations towards science. The students took a motivation assessment prior to and after a week-long experimental outdoor school program. A t-test was used to analyze data and it was determined that students showed signs of increased motivation to study science after experiencing the hands-on exploratory outdoor school (Rathmell, 2001).”

- A. Using the table below, please outline the major strengths and weaknesses of this study.

Strengths	Weaknesses

- B. What questions are unanswered in your mind concerning this project?

- C. Please redesign the project as you feel it should be completed.

- D. What ethical issues arise from implementation of this project?

3. The following is an excerpt from a research project. Please read it carefully and answer the questions below. Please do NOT critique writing. Rather focus on the research design content.

“The purpose of this study was to investigate the effect that distributing a list of instructional objectives at the beginning of a unit has on student achievement. The participants were chemistry students at a semi-rural high school. A few of the participants were classified as “at-risk” teenagers. The students test scores derived as data for this study. The results are not the same for both groups. One group benefited from having a list of objectives, while the other groups did not. Distributing a list of objectives did not necessarily increase the rate of retention (Sester, 2001).”

- A. Using the table below, please outline the major strengths and weaknesses of this study.

Strengths	Weaknesses

- B. What questions are unanswered in your mind concerning this project?

- C. Please suggest revisions to this project or redesign it as you feel it should be completed.

- D. What ethical issues arise with implementation of this project?

4. The following is an excerpt from a research project. Please read it carefully and answer the questions below. Please do NOT critique writing. Rather focus on the research design content.

“This research examines two types of seating arrangements in an elementary school setting. The focus of the research was on straight row versus grouping of desks. The observations took place in a 6th and 2nd grade classroom. I found that seating arrangements did affect the behavior in the classroom. There was a significant negative difference between the students seated in grouped desks who had more behavioral issues than for students seated in straight rows adjusting for age differences (Flitcraft, 2001).”

- A. Using the table below, please outline the major strengths and weaknesses of this study.

Strengths	Weaknesses

- B. What questions are unanswered in your mind concerning this project?

- C. Please redesign the project as you feel it should be completed.

- D. What ethical issues arise from implementation of this project?

5. The following is an excerpt from a research project. Please read it carefully and answer the questions below. Please do NOT critique writing. Rather focus on the research design content.

“Many students are not able to spell even after years of phonics. This research investigated two techniques, word framing and the use of icons, for their effectiveness in increasing spelling scores. A sample of 46 first and second graders was selected from 1st/2nd blend classrooms. One group was taught word framing with icons; the other was not. Spelling test scores were collected four weeks prior to intervention and four weeks after intervention. Scores were averaged by class, gender, grade, Title I, and ESL participation. Results showed a decrease in test scores for the group that used word framing and icons (Robbins, 2001).

- A. Using the table below, please outline the major strengths and weaknesses of this study.

Strengths	Weaknesses

- B. What questions are unanswered in your mind concerning this project?

- C. Please redesign the project as you feel it should be completed.

- D. What ethical issues arise from implementation of this project?