

## HOW I CHOSE MY SAMPLE

Now that I have designed my questionnaire, the next stage of my research is to choose my sample. A sample is a subgroup of a population chosen from a large population to show the quality, style, or nature of the whole specimen. A sample is used because it is quicker because there are less people, and easier to gain access of.

There are several different sampling methods that can be used in sociological research, and each one has its own advantages and disadvantages.

One of the methods of sampling is: Stratified random sampling; in which random numbers are chosen and the name beside it is the name chosen for the sample. Equal amounts of people are chosen from different groups. There is a disadvantage for me in using this sampling method because I will be unable to collect data and evaluate the data from the whole population due to time limitations. Another disadvantage in using stratified random sampling is that I may choose a group consisting of certain aged people and this can make my results inaccurate.

Simple random sampling is when the whole population is grouped (divided) and a certain fraction of the whole population is chosen, this gives the whole population more of a chance of being involved. This is an advantage because it makes it easier to collect the necessary data. The disadvantage is that there can be a lot of variation due to the large number of population that was chosen initially.

Purposive sampling is when you choose the respondents not at random and they are specifically chosen by the person sending the questionnaires.

Now that I have evaluated each of the types of sample that I could use, I have decided to use a random stratified sample. The reasons I have decided to use this method are because I have a time limit and therefore resources need to be collected quicker.

To choose the students who will receive my questionnaires I will choose three classes of each year group at Whitmore High. I will number each person in each class separately and then select a random number in that class using a calculator. I will then use this method to choose 10 pupils from each year group (approximately 3 from the three classes).

Once my sample was chosen, I was able to actually give out my questionnaires. In order to give my questionnaires out I had to sort each person into their forms and I had a pile of paper for each form I had sent questionnaires to. After sorting these questionnaires out I had to put them into the form registers whereby the form tutor would give out the questionnaires. As the respondents did not know that I was the sender of the questionnaires I had to tell them where to put the questionnaires after they filled them out. So we located a box labeled 'sociology questionnaires' and left it by the staff room and collected in the box during every lesson and then I would find my responses in the box and analyse them once I received enough questionnaires.

(Don't forget to include the actual list of names in your final report!)