

CASE STUDY

How to Conduct a Case Study

1. Determine the question and focus of your case study.
 - i. Questions typically answer “how” or “why” (e.g., how is student engagement impacted by the use of technology in the classroom?)
 - ii. Will your case study be exploratory, explanatory or descriptive?
2. Select participant(s), groups, items, or events.

A case study could focus on a person, group of people, an item(s), or event(s). (e.g., a class of grade 6 students using iPads for a math unit).
3. Get informed consent from all participants (see How to Obtain Informed Consent document in the toolkit, data folder).
4. Collect data that may include context of the case study, demographic information, and various kinds of information that will be sources for the case study (e.g., observations, reports, diaries, logs, photos etc.). Collecting more than one form of data will strengthen your study.
5. Analyse data.

Cautions in Conducting a Case Study

1. It may be time consuming to collect enough different sources of data to make the case study meaningful.

2. A case study is a broad exploration of an issue and therefore may only uncover broad themes which may lead to a need for deeper inquiry or research.

3. Personal integrity, sensitivity, and bias of the researcher will be hard to factor out of the analysis of the data as the case study is a description of an issue and may be prejudiced by these things.

For further information, consider the following:

A Guide to Research Tools – Case Study

<http://web.viu.ca/rtri/Case%20Study.pdf>

How to Do a Case Study

<http://www.wikihow.com/Do-a-Case-Study>

Case Study

http://www.edu.plymouth.ac.uk/resined/Case_study/casest.htm

