

Technique: Interview Questions

Interview Questions

It is important to measure people's attitudes, perceptions and motivations that cannot be obtained by observing their behavior. As with observations, different methods yield different types of results. An informal interview is simply a conversation. It often relates to the subject's activities and may arise spontaneously. Informal interviews generally are not used to obtain numerical data, but rather to find out how people perceive or use a place. In documenting responses, try to record, either on paper or audiotape, the exact words and phrases people use.

A guided interview is more structured. The interviewer will have a series of questions or topics that need to be explored. The information obtained from each person interviewed should be comparable. The guided interview on the next page is very flexible: the interviewer can rephrase questions and ask additional questions to explore further the interviewee's thoughts about a particular topic.

A questionnaire or survey requires questions that are carefully phrased, ordered, and are not subject to alteration. Multiple-choice questions often are included, followed by probing questions that allow for a more personal amplification of particular points. Multiple-choice questions can be easily analyzed and are simpler to record than open-ended ones; open-ended questions such as "What other kinds of activities would you like to see here?" allow people to share ideas, which can be helpful in formulating new plans for the place.

Technique: Interviews & Questions

Resident Survey Sample Questions

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW YOU USE THE PARK:

1. How long have you lived in this neighborhood?
2. On average, how often do you use the park in good weather?
3. When you use the park, what are you most likely to do there?
4. What areas in the park do you use most?
5. What entrance do you usually use?
6. What days do you usually use the park? (Circle one)
Weekdays Weekends Both
7. What times do you usually use the park? (Circle one)
Early morning Lunchtime Afternoon Evening All
8. How many hours do you usually stay?
9. Please rate the park by the following issues:

Flowers and landscaping	Good	Average	Poor	Don't know
Condition of restrooms	Good	Average	Poor	Don't know
Condition of drinking fountains	Good	Average	Poor	Don't know
Condition of playground	Good	Average	Poor	Don't know
Condition of benches	Good	Average	Poor	Don't know
Lighting	Good	Average	Poor	Don't know
Safety	Good	Average	Poor	Don't know
10. What do you like best about the park?
11. What would make the park more enjoyable for you?

WE NEED SOME INFORMATION ABOUT YOU IN ORDER TO GET A BETTER IDEA OF WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN USING THE PARK:

12. Sex: (circle one) Female Male
13. Age: _____
14. Think about what you do especially well: Is there anything you would be willing to teach others, if you had the opportunity?
15. Name any skills you would like to learn, if possible:

16. If you would like to get involved or volunteer some time, may we contact you in the future?