

Practical Considerations when conducting research

TIME

- When does the research need to be completed by?
- Questionnaires may take time to collect back in.
- Observation is very time consuming both to undertake and to interpret
- The bigger the scale of the research the more time it will take

Research Opportunities

- How easy is it to carry out the proposed research?
- Researching the experiences of fellow students will be easier to carry out
- Researching domestic violence, behaviours in prison or gang violence will be more problematic

Access to Participants

- Will you need a DBS check in order to work with the participants?
- Will you need permission from the 'gatekeepers'?
- Will you need to take time integrating yourself into the group to be studied

Funding and finance

- Who provides funding for this type of research?
- What are the costs of undertaking the research?
- Does the funding come with any special instructions?
- Experiments are often more expensive than interviews

Personal Characteristics

- Some research techniques may not be practical because of the nature of the researcher (age, sex etc.)
- The researcher may not have the skills needed (e.g. for open ended interviews)
- Participants may be wary of the researcher due to status differences