**Choosing a Qualitative Research Site**

This activity is designed to help you think about your research site in further detail. Ideally, you will have already chose a place that you would like to conduct your research. If not, that’s alright too. You can also use this activity as an opportunity to discuss the characteristics of several sites as a means of narrowing down what you’d like to focus on.

**Instructions:**

1. Sit down with a partner and briefly describe your research interests. If you have a site identified, describe it as well. If you don’t, describe some potential sites for your research and/or brainstorm with your classmate about where you might be able to conduct your work. Use the space below to take notes and jot down ideas and insights.
2. In your own words, explain what you believe you can learn through studying the community, place, issue or culture that you’re proposing studying.
3. Why are you interested in this particular issue?
4. What do you already know about your research issue/site?
5. What assumptions or stereotypes do you think others might have about your research site/issue? In what ways might your research challenge these existing stereotypes?
6. How is your research site, and the people that live/work/reside there, connect to larger society? That is, how are they situated to the rest of society? What are their race, ethnicity, culture, gender, class, age, language, etc.?
7. What is your research plan? What do other researchers have to say about your research site? Where can you gather existing sources about your research site?
8. Why do these existing sources matter? Do you suspect that your research will question these sources or corroborate them?
9. What makes you passionate about your research? If the answer is nothing, now would be a good time to consider a different research topic! If the answer is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, then be sure to make note of these things so that you can continue to return to them throughout the semester. Good research is almost always driven by the researcher’s passion to conduct it. So, be sure to choose something you care about!