

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Hour: \_\_\_\_\_

## Qualitative Research Methods

*We will practice qualitative (non-numerical) research methods. Choose two of the three options below and practice the skill of recording and interpreting qualitative data. You want to be as detailed as possible. With qualitative research you never know when the smallest detail might be the key to unlocking a good interpretation. **Remember** that we want to protect our subjects' identities. As researchers we want to do no harm! So no real names please!*

**Option 1: Lunch in the Field** – Spend a day or two at lunch taking notes on the overall environment and people's social behavior. Try to blend in and not be caught observing. People will alter their behavior if they know you are watching them. Instead, do everything you'd normally do and people will merely assume you are doing homework. How do we students separate themselves socially at RPHS? Are their cliques? Is there a lot of social interaction between students of different races? If there are groups is there a social hierarchy? Which groups have the most social power? Feel free to include information from your experience as well. (3-5 paragraphs).

**Option 2: The Roles We Play** – Sociologist Erving Goffman came up with the sociological theory of "Dramaturgy." In simple terms, Goffman says that human interaction is really all about acting. We all take on different "roles" depending on the situation we find ourselves in and act accordingly. Are you a different person with your friends than you are with your parents? Your grandparents or your boss? Take a few days to think about the different situations and "roles" you have to play day in and day out and put Goffman's theory to the test. Do you agree or disagree and why? (3-5 paragraphs)

**Option 3: People Doing Too Much** – Pay attention to your peers over the next couple of days. Specifically, observe their behavior and ask yourself the question, "Why are they doing that?"

People are often very deliberate with their actions but constantly try to play it off like they don't really care or are just being themselves. One example of this that I often see is students blasting their music just loud enough for other people to hear and then claiming that they just like their music that loud. In reality, they are almost always putting on a show for those around them. By making sure others can hear their music, they are hoping to be noticed. "Hey, look at me and how cool I am." Standing in the hallways, I see attention-seeking behavior all of the time, and as a sociologist, I can see how and why people do what they do. (3-5 paragraphs)

**Must be turned in by Monday, 2/4/19**