

Worksheet 3: Research method

Another candidate is planning the following study:

I would conduct an overt, non-participant observation of adults to investigate whether people spend more time speaking about work-related topics or topics unrelated to work. With participants' permission I will visit their workplace to carry out an hour-long structured observation to measure the amount of time each participant spends talking about different topics.

For the planned study, complete the following grid to evaluate each feature of the research method in the context of the planned design. The first box has been completed for you:

Feature	Evaluation
Overt / Covert	Type: <i>This is an overt observation as the worker will know I am observing them.</i>
	Strength: <i>The study is ethically sound as participants are aware that they are being observed at work and have given their permission (informed consent).</i>
	Weakness: <i>The workers might avoid non-work-related topics of conversation as they are being observed which lowers the validity of the study.</i>
Naturalistic / Controlled	Type:
	Strength:
	Weakness:
Structured / Unstructured	Type:
	Strength:
	Weakness: