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Activity

Planning your own fieldwork

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Use the 'Unseen fieldwork' article in WIDELAND Vol. 33, No. 4 to help you complete your own fieldwork enquiry plan below. You can check your answers using the suggested answers on the back of the sheet.

Enquiry question	How sustainable is your school?
Hypothesis	I think my school is very/not very sustainable because...
Three methods of data collection I will use	To investigate this question, I will collect data by: 1. 2. 3.
Sampling strategy for one data collection technique	For _____ data collection, I will use _____ sampling because...
One method of data presentation for the technique above	To present this data I will use _____. This is because...
Evaluation: how effective and reliable is this fieldwork?	This fieldwork is reliable because... However. This fieldwork could be improved by...

Possible answers

Enquiry question	How sustainable is your school?
Hypothesis	I think my school is very/not very sustainable because it uses a large/small amount of water/electricity; it recycles...Most students and staff travel to school by...
Three methods of data collection I will use	To investigate this question, I will collect data by: 1. Travel to school questionnaire for staff and students 2. Litter survey 3. Environmental quality survey
Sampling strategy for one data collection technique	For the travel to school questionnaire data collection, I will use random sampling because all students/staff will have an equal chance of being selected and it is easy to plan and implement.
One method of data presentation for the technique above	To present this data I will use a pie chart to show the percentage of staff/students who use different modes of transport to travel to school. This is because it will show be how sustainable peoples' transport choices are, for example if most people travel to school via car then it is less sustainable, than most people travelling to school by foot or bicycle.
Evaluation: how effective and reliable is this fieldwork?	This fieldwork is reliable because it will represent a range of students and staff to help answer the enquiry question. However, some people could be untruthful or change their mode of transport over the course of the year. However. This fieldwork could be improved by asking the questionnaire to all students/staff, keeping it anonymous to encourage honest answers and completing the survey again 6 months later.

Teacher notes

This sheet can be completed in lesson or at home and aims to encourage students to apply their understanding of unseen fieldwork to plan their own fieldwork enquiry, in particular — hypothesis, data collection techniques, presentation techniques and evaluation.