

Coding Open-ended Responses

The purpose of this activity is to provide you with experience creating codes, categories, code sheets, and coding responses to open-ended questionnaire items. One activity in this course is the development of a questionnaire to assess various work and life experiences. In a previous semester the questionnaire was administered to graduate students in the College of Education at Georgia Southern University. Below is one of the open-ended items on the questionnaire.

Questionnaire Item 27: *Thinking about your current or most recent employment experiences, please briefly explain what you **LIKE** about working there.*

On the next page is a table of responses to item 27 from the first 23 students who completed the questionnaire.

Do the following

1. Read all responses, and as you read responses begin forming **codes** and a **code sheet**.
If you don't recall details of codes, code sheets, etc., see the course notes entitled

"Qualitative Data Analysis of Open-ended Items"

The notes are in the course calendar about half-way through the semester. The direct link is provided below.

<http://www.bwgriffin.com/gsu/courses/edur8331/edur8331-presentations/EDUR-8331-06-Qualitative-Data-Analysis.pdf> (please contact me if this link does not work for you)

2. Review the codes you developed and begin classifying codes into **categories**.
See the notes linked above for description of categories. Briefly, a category is a broader description that encompasses several codes.
3. Re-read responses to item 27 and **revise** codes, categories, and code sheet as needed.
4. Code responses: with the codes developed, read and **code responses** from respondents 4, 8, and 14.
5. If you would like feedback, submit the following as a PDF attachment in a mail message.
 - a. Code sheet you developed. Recall that with a code sheet, you provide definition/description of each code, and maybe an example so others understand your interpretation for each code.
 - b. Coded responses for respondents 4, 8, and 14. You can copy and paste their responses and write codes in the margin, or you can write your codes within the text in brackets like the example below.

Sample Coded Response with Codes in Brackets.

"Wow, the difference is like night and day. Mr. Sykes* was so controlling. [authority control] He had to approve . . . like everything we did. [authority approval] If I wanted to try something new, maybe a new computer program with my students, I had to get his permission. [authority permission] Uh, I remember once . . . I wanted to try a new workbook that I downloaded from the internet. One day he was observing me teach, and he asked about it in kind of a disapproving way. [authority questioning] I don't know, but it just seems he was so oppressive and didn't want us to try new things. [authority oppressive] I kind of lost interest in teaching when he was here. [teacher interest lost]"

Respondent	Questionnaire Item 27: <i>Thinking about your current or most recent employment experiences, please briefly explain what you LIKE about working there.</i>
1	I greatly appreciate the flexibility I have - I can work at my preferred pace, seldom have others rushing me, can take days off when desired, am relatively well paid, and have a good retirement plan and job benefits.
2	I enjoy working with my students the most.
3	Teaching is rewarding, challenging and fun.
4	Interactions with my students and colleagues. Sense of family within the school climate - all the teachers care about all the students. Seeing my students take joy in the learning process.
5	I enjoy the ability to make a difference in the lives of students and their families. I also enjoy the opportunities to be a teacher leader and the mentorship of my administration.
6	I have a strong relationship with the people in my department. I enjoy meeting with them weekly and exchanging ideas.
7	Making an impact on our youth through academics and social emotional aspects.
8	I enjoy being in a supervisory position. It allows me to interact with others to help them do their own jobs better. I also like that my role places me in a position to know what is going on behind the scene; something most teachers don't have available to them.
9	My supervisor is very supportive and the work that I do helps other teachers.
10	I love being with my students. They are a joy to teach and never fail to make me laugh. Their enthusiasm for learning encourages my own desire for knowledge.
11	I like teaching students new curriculum and new methods of learning.
12	My students.
13	My students enjoy learning, the pay is great, and my administrators are very supportive. I feel like what I teach matters.
14	My previous work experience in another district, allowed for more autonomy. I was given a general expectation, for example students to pass the end of the year exam, but how I got there was entirely up to me. I was supplied with tools and materials to help be successful. My time was respected, there were no unexpected meetings or due dates. I have a master's degree and I am now working on a third degree and I have 6 years experience in the classroom, I want to be treated like any other professional in any other field with the same education level and career experience.
15	I feel supported by my administration. I feel like I am making a difference in peoples' lives.
16	I love being around my students and watching them grow.
17	Supportive Co-workers
18	I enjoy my work team. I am satisfied with my level of autonomy.
19	
20	I like the relationships I build with children and adults and the fact that I can influence these people to be successful.
21	The climate at my place of work is positive. People are supportive of each other.
22	I have an opportunity to influence students that need someone professional and positive in their lives.
23	The flexibility in the classroom and people I work with.