

# Descriptive Coding — Practice

## Methods

*Descriptive Coding* summarizes the basic topic of a passage in a noun or short phrase. These codes should focus on the topic (what is talked/written about), not the content (substance of the message).

Example: a traveler's entry in his notebook, briefly describing his evening.

“It’s 8:15 and I’m sitting on this	<sup>1</sup> - Geography
<sup>1</sup> deserted cliff, west of Soldier’s Point.	
<sup>2</sup> Sunset is in about an hour I think.	<sup>2</sup> - Sky (sunset)
There are some <sup>3</sup> thin cirrus clouds on	<sup>3</sup> - Sky (weather)
the horizon so hopefully it will be a	
good one. It had better be, since the	<sup>4</sup> - Location, activity
<sup>4</sup> walk home will be pretty dangerous	
on that one-lane road.”	

*Initial / In-Vivo Coding* helps us break down our data into discrete parts, so that we can examine them and compare them for similarities and differences. In Vivo coding means using the words from the participants' own writing as codes. (*We will not get to practice this method today.*)

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### What did you like least about this course and instructor?

- Some of the classes seemed like we were just doing busywork when we could be learning more material.
- The way it was taught isn't really how I learn as a student. I am more of someone that would rather listen to a lecture that has structure and a clear flow than a more hands on approach.
- It took more work than my other classes and it is just a gen ed course, and the quizzes every week tampered with my grade quite a bit.
- Sometimes I felt like we were wasting class time because Dr. K had to entertain all the questions people asked.
- Sometimes the in class discussions seemed to drag.

- Tests were extremely difficult. Test grades didn't show what I have actually learned.
- It was very top heavy. The first segment of the semester was way harder than the last segment. Better distribution would help.
- I really did not enjoy the quizzes and little points. My grade reflected upon that and not my learning ability.
- His exams are hard, he expects a lot out of his students.
- I wish we were told about the quizzes beforehand.
- I didn't like that there were so many in class assignments. I only missed one class all semester and we had a quiz that day and it lowered my grade 2%.
- Each class was so important and so beneficial to success in the class that I wish he took attendance. If I had known that someone would know whether or not I showed up to class and be expecting me, I would have done better because I would have had better attendance. Of course, I could also just learn some self-discipline.
- Quizzes and homework were frequently somewhat unclear.
- Wanted more homework with questions similar to that of the exams.
- Very slow paced.
- Felt like I was treated like a high schooler.
- The course was overly hard. Felt like a 400 level course.
- Relative humidity is hard.
- Difficulty of Exam Questions.
- I feel that the take-home homework assignments were not the best use of my time. I would have preferred more thinking-based questions, to give one example.
- Class moved slowly in the first few weeks.
- Class could be 50 minutes, not 75.