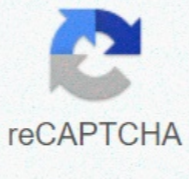




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What are the advantages and disadvantages of ethnography

Show page numbers Content analysis is a systematic, quantitative process of analyzing communication messages by determining the frequency of message characteristics. Content analysis as a research method has advantages and disadvantages. Content analysis is useful in describing communicative messages, the research process is relatively unobtrusive, and content analysis provides a relatively safe process for examining communicative messages, but it can be time-consuming and presents several methodological challenges. This entry identifies several advantages and disadvantages of content analysis related to the scope, data, and process of content analysis. The scope and advantage of content analysis is as a descriptive tool. Content analysis can be used to describe communication messages. Content analysis focuses on the specific communication message and the message creator. It is often said ... All A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z Entries Per Page: 20 40 60 In order to continue enjoying our site, we ask that you confirm your identity as a human. Thank you very much for your cooperation. Download a PDF version of Death Penalty Questions and Answers >> Since our nation's founding, the government -- colonial, federal, and state -- has punished a varying percentage of arbitrarily-selected murders with the ultimate sanction: death. More than 14,000 people have been legally executed since colonial times, most of them in the early 20th Century. By the 1930s, as many as 150 people were executed each year. However, public outrage and legal challenges caused the practice to wane. By 1967, capital punishment had virtually halted in the United States, pending the outcome of several court challenges. In 1972, in *Furman v. Georgia*, the Supreme Court invalidated hundreds of death sentences, declaring that then existing state laws were applied in an "arbitrary and capricious" manner and, thus, violated the Eighth Amendment's prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment, and the Fourteenth Amendment's guarantees of equal protection of the laws and due process. But in 1976, in *Gregg v. Georgia*, the Court resuscitated the death penalty: It ruled that the penalty "does not invariably violate the Constitution" if administered in a manner designed to guard against arbitrariness and discrimination. Several states promptly passed or reenacted capital punishment laws. Today, states have laws authorizing the death penalty, as does the military and the federal government. Several states in the Midwest and Northeast have abolished capital punishment. Alaska and Hawaii have never had the death penalty. The vast majority of executions have taken place in 10 states from the South and over 35% have occurred in Texas. In 2004, the high courts of Kansas and New York struck down their death penalty statutes as unconstitutional and the legislatures have yet to reinstate them. Today, about 3,350 people are on "death row." Virtually all are poor, a significant number are mentally disabled, more than 40 percent are African American, and a disproportionate number are Native American, Latino, and Asian. The ACLU believes that, in all circumstances, the death penalty is unconstitutional under the Eighth Amendment. We also believe that the death penalty continues to be applied in an arbitrary and discriminatory manner in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment. Frequently Asked Questions raised by the public about Capital Punishment Q: Doesn't the Death Penalty deter crime, especially murder? A: No, there is no credible evidence that the death penalty deters crime more effectively than long terms of imprisonment. States that have death penalty laws do not have lower crime rates or murder rates than states without such laws. And states that have abolished capital punishment show no significant changes in either crime or murder rates. The death penalty has no deterrent effect. Claims that each execution deters a certain number of murders have been thoroughly discredited by social science research. People commit murders largely in the heat of passion, under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or because they are mentally ill, giving little or no thought to the possible consequences of their acts. The few murderers who plan their crimes beforehand -- for example, professional executioners -- intend and expect to avoid punishment altogether by not getting caught. Some self-destructive individuals may even hope they will be caught and executed. Death penalty laws falsely convince the public that government has taken effective measures to combat crime and homicide. In reality, such laws do nothing to protect us or our communities from the acts of dangerous criminals. Q: Don't murderers deserve to die? A: No one deserves to die. When the government metes out vengeance disguised as justice, it becomes complicit with killers in devaluing human life and human dignity. In civilized society, we reject the principle of literally doing to criminals what they do to their victims: The penalty for rape cannot be rape, or for arson, the burning down of the arsonist's house. We should not, therefore, punish the murderer with death. Q: If execution is unacceptable, what is the alternative? A: INCAPACITATION. Convicted murderers can be sentenced to life imprisonment, as they are in many countries and states that have abolished the death penalty. Most state laws allow life sentences for murder that severely limit or eliminate the possibility of parole. Today, 37 states allow juries to sentence defendants to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole instead of the death penalty. Several recent studies of public attitudes about crime and punishment found that a majority of Americans support alternatives to capital punishment: When people were presented with the facts about several crimes for which death was a possible punishment, a majority chose life imprisonment without parole as an appropriate alternative to the death penalty (see PA., 2007). Q: Isn't the Death Penalty necessary as just retribution for victims' families? A: No. "Reconciliation means accepting you can't undo the murder; but you can decide how you want to live afterwards" ("Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation, Inc.) Q: Have strict procedures eliminated arbitrariness and discrimination in death sentencing? A: No. Poor people are also far more likely to be death sentenced than those who can afford the high costs of private investigators, psychiatrists, and expert criminal lawyers. Indeed, capital punishment is "a privilege of the poor," said Clinton Duffy, former warden at California's San Quentin Prison. Some observers have pointed out that the term "capital punishment" is ironic because "only those without capital get the punishment." Furthermore, study after study has found serious racial disparities in the charging, sentencing and imposition of the death penalty. People who kill whites are far more likely to receive a death sentence than those whose victims were not white, and blacks who kill whites have the greatest chance of receiving a death sentence. Minorities are death-sentenced disproportionate to their numbers in the population. This is not primarily because minorities commit more murders, but because they are more often sentenced to death when they do. Q: Maybe it used to happen that innocent people were mistakenly executed, but hasn't that possibility been eliminated? A: No. Since 1973, 123 people in 25 states have been released from death row because they were not guilty. In addition, seven people have been executed even though they were probably innocent. A study published in the Stanford Law Review documents 350 capital convictions in this century, in which it was later proven that the convict had not committed the crime. Of those, 25 convicts were executed while others spent decades of their lives in prison. Fifty-five of the 350 cases took place in the 1970s, and another 20 of them between 1980 and 1985. Our criminal justice system cannot be made fail-safe because it is run by human beings, who are fallible. Executions of innocent persons occur. Q: Only the worst criminals get sentenced to death, right? A: Wrong. Although it is commonly thought that the death penalty is reserved for those who commit the most heinous crimes, in reality only a small percentage of death-sentenced inmates were convicted of unusually vicious crimes. The vast majority of individuals facing execution were convicted of crimes that are indistinguishable from crimes committed by others who are serving prison sentences. Crimes such as murder committed in the course of an armed robbery, enabling mixed-mode methodologies. This is especially important in b2b research studies where several data collection methods may be necessary to maximize response rates. There are also some disadvantages to CATI market research: Getting a questionnaire set up and running, fault free, on a CATI system takes time. Coping with open-ended responses presents some problems on CATI. Although the systems can accommodate open-ended responses, capturing them requires interviewers to have fast and accurate typing skills. If a respondent makes changes to an earlier answer part-way through the interview, it is more difficult to return and make alterations than is the case with paper questionnaires. Reaching some target audiences using telephone interviewing is becoming more difficult. Household usage of fixed-line telephones is declining, and there are increasingly stringent regulations around reaching consumers on mobile phones. The use of automatic dialers, for instance, is banned or restricted in many countries. For many business-to-business audiences, telephone interviewing is still one of the most effective ways of obtaining representative samples. In general, CATI research is best suited to structured interviews carried out in large numbers, especially repeated surveys where all the possible answers have been worked out and can be listed as pre-coded responses. Consuming genetically modified organisms, GMOs, like soybeans and corn, might cause unexpected effects like allergic reactions. Image Credit: ithinksky/E+/GettyImages Genetically modified organisms, GMOs, seem to offer the most effective way to feed the 795 million people who don't have enough food. The public, however, has shown resistance to products made using these organisms. Some authors claim that genetic engineering offers no threat, yet reports of negative effects of GMOs like environmental concerns and allergic reactions persist in the media. Understanding these issues will help you make good buying decisions. Understand Genetic Engineering People have used genetic alteration to increase productivity and profit for 30,000 years, but modern genetic engineering began in 1973. That's when Stanley Cohen and Herbert Boyer created the first GMO using gene transfer. This important discovery has led to endless possibilities and many remain controversial. That controversy seems endless as scientists still can't reach a consensus about the safety of GMOs. You can educate yourself about these important issues by reading the article Advantages & Disadvantages of Biotechnology on Food Health. The author lists the advantages of GMOs like having an extended shelf life. The article also points out the disadvantages of GMOs like the lack of data on long-term effects. It also describes the current U.S. regulations on genetic engineering. Recognize the Benefits Genetic engineering offers many benefits. It can, for example, play a role in combating global warming. The current pesticides used by farmers emit many greenhouse gases. Scientists can alter the genetic makeup of crops so that they need fewer of these harmful chemicals and thereby decrease their carbon footprint. Using GMOs might also help people living in impoverished conditions. Genetically altered seeds can increase the yield of small-scale farms, generating rural jobs with better wages, according to a 2017 report in the Canadian Journal of Development Studies. These improvements filter down to the average consumer as well. Without GMOs, the average food budget in the U.S. would increase 28.7 percent. Yet there are more important issues than saving money. Genetic engineering offers a way to feed the world despite global warming. Climate change has led to more drought. Scientists can make GMOs which are more tolerant of high temperatures and dry conditions, according a 2015 paper from Harvard University. Be Wary of the Cost Unfortunately, the many benefits of GMOs come at a great cost. The main cost is long-term environmental damage. A 2018 report in PNAS describes what can happen when humans try to change ecosystems. It can lead to an uncontrollable chain reaction, which only becomes clear over a long period. For example, using a herbicide to kill a pest might take away the natural enemy of another pest. As that pest rises in strength, farmers increase their use of pesticides. This increase leads to pesticide resistance, and new pesticide-resistance species appear. This cascade of events has happened several times, and it might represent an unending cycle of environmental damage. Identify Your Risk Most GMOs tolerate the pesticide glyphosate, but this genetic alteration remains controversial because this pesticide might cause cancer. From 1995 to 2002, the use of glyphosate went from 2,500 to 30,000 tons a year. This increase shows the dramatic rise of growing GMOs. In fact, 94 percent of soybeans and 89 percent of corn grown in the U.S. are genetically modified. Glyphosate residue leaches into the genetically modified food grown in treated fields through a process called desiccation. . . . When you eat these foods, you might allow glyphosate into your gastrointestinal tract. This exposure likely has negative consequences. For example, increases in circulating glyphosate correlate with a diagnosis of autism. You can decrease your exposure to glyphosate in the U.S. by buying products with a special label. That label includes the statement Non-GMO Project Verified. A nonprofit organization known as the Non-GMO Project offers this label in compliance with the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service rules. These guidelines cover how companies can make label or labeling claims. Know the Consumer Backlash Genetic engineering has actually moved slower than expected because of consumer resistance. In fact, some consumers think that GMOs are Frankenfoods or monster-like creations destined to destroy society. Younger people, especially women, remain skeptical about GMOs despite the safety claims of manufacturers like Monsanto. A 2015 report in Cell Press describes how this resistance has slowed the progress of genetic engineering. For example, the EU allows only two genetically altered crops. It's important to carefully move forward, but anti-GMO activists should remember that thousands of lives have been lost by blocking GMOs in Africa. Protect the Macroenvironment The effects of GMOs on the environment remain one of the biggest concerns. For example, farmers might fail to limit genetically modified crops to a certain area. Bees take pollen from genetically altered corn, and they might transfer it between fields. This possible transfer brings up moral issues such as identifying who's responsible for the potential damage. A 2017 article in PLoS One showed that this transfer does indeed happen. Starting an experimental field featuring transgenic bentgrass planted in 2002 led to the plant still appearing in nearby areas 13 years later. The authors argued that factors other than pollen transfer explain these disturbing results. Foremost among these factors is wind dispersal, which is nearly impossible to control. Similar issues arise with genetically modified salmon. A mathematical model suggests that the accidental release of transgenic animals could end the wild population. Fortunately, manufacturers can take steps to prevent this Trojan gene effect from happening. These steps include keeping the transgenic animals isolated and making them sterile. Protect the Microenvironment Environmental damage might also happen at a smaller scale. For example, the roots of transgenic plants can release toxic proteins into the soil. Another issue is that some marker genes give the transgenic plant antibiotic resistance, and this quality also leeches into the soil. Most disturbing, few researchers have even bothered to test the impact of GMOs on the soil. Avoid Allergic Reactions The GMO side effects on humans also remain a concern. New genetic technologies have the unwanted effect of the added gene possibly entering the host's genome causing a permanent alteration in its basic genetic structure. A 2016 report in Biological and Pharmaceutical Bulletin showed that this result seems unlikely to happen. Yet the new technology created unexpected proteins, and one of these proteins was very similar to a known allergen. Other evidence also suggests that using GMOs will trigger allergic reactions. More than 20 years ago, a company wanted to add a Brazil nut gene to their soybeans. Brazil nuts cause an allergic reaction in some people, and the transgenic soybean had the same effect in sensitive subjects. You can avoid these allergic reactions by buying non-GMO products. Buying organic foods gives you an easy way to avoid genetic engineering. Look for products with the USDA Organic label. In the U.S., buying organic products guarantees that they don't feature GMOs. Save the Animals Creating GMOs can also create ethical issues about animal treatment. Genetically altered salmon, for example, experience physiological changes which many animal rights activists consider cruel. A 2018 article in the Transactions of the American Fisheries showed that these salmon show alterations in their organs and bones. These changes have a negative impact on their swimming ability. These genetic changes also bring up darker issues. A 2019 paper in Scientific Reports showed that transgenic salmon have a greater rate of survival in crowded conditions, and that they survive because they better manage cannibalism and starvation. Prevent Pesticide Resistance The great use of herbicides like glyphosate has unexpected consequences. Similar to what happens with the overuse of antibiotics, antigens develop resistance by mutating into new strains. At least 34 glyphosate-resistant weeds now exist around the world because of herbicide resistance. This change is part of a disturbing trend with 249 herbicide-resistant weeds currently known. Farmers have also become more dependent on glyphosate. They now rotate crops less and often fail to pursue alternative forms of pest management. There's also been less conservation tillage. These negative changes do more than just generate weeds, they also decrease soil quality. Protect the Children The widespread use of glyphosate also affects human lives. The International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified glyphosate as probably carcinogenic to humans and likely to damage their genetic structure. The herbicide also seems to alter human pregnancy. For example, 90 percent of a sample of pregnant women in Indiana had detectable levels of glyphosate, and these levels correlated with having a shortened pregnancy. An association between glyphosate exposure and birth defects also exists. A 2017 paper in Birth Defects Research showed that women exposed to the herbicide were more likely to have children with a heart condition. Findings in laboratory animals support this correlation with more direct evidence. Exposing neonatal rats to glyphosate altered the development of their bodies. A report from the Virginia Cooperative Extension describes ways to lower your exposure to glyphosate. The authors recommend buying organic and using alternative methods of weed control. It's also important to follow the manufacturer's directions. You can wear protective equipment and keep people away from sprayed areas until the herbicide has dried. Save the Butterflies The Monarch butterfly gives a rallying cry to environmental activists, who claim that glyphosate use has damaged the main food source for Monarch caterpillars: the milkweed. Recently, there has been a 58 percent decrease in milkweed plants and an 81 percent decrease in Monarch butterflies, according to a 2017 article in Insect Conservation and Diversity. These changes might make the Monarch vulnerable to extinction. It will take participation from all levels of society to reverse this disturbing trend. One Green Planet has an extensive list of things you can do to help save the Monarch butterfly. This list includes not using pesticides and avoiding GMOs. It also features advice like planting milkweed plants and building butterfly way stations. Adverse Effects of OMO Crops A large divide exists between the opinions of the manufacturers and the public about GMOs. Manufacturers typically believe that GMOs are safe, and the public typically fears that they are not. A 2016 report in the journal Sustainability describes how important it is to include everyone as genetic engineering inevitably moves forward. In Norway, for example, GMOs can only be used in an ethically justifiable and socially acceptable way. The large number of side effects and possible risks of GMOs suggests that they don't meet these criteria at the present time. Scientists must do more research, and manufacturers must put more barriers in place to guarantee the safety of both the society and the environment.

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