

The 6 D's of Situational Assessments

How can you be sure you're covering all the bases in your situational assessment?

Document the 6D's to ensure your research design yields a comprehensive, rational argument and an effectively-designed program

DEFICIT

What is the actual need requiring intervention?

Document the gap between the current and desired situation you are proposing to address.

DEVELOP

It's not just about the negatives. In the spirit of *appreciative inquiry*, what are the existing strengths the program could build on?

DESCRIBE

What are the proposed participants' characteristics, i.e. age, experience, learning styles, etc.? These help to inform the content and design of the program.

DESIRES

What are the proposed participants' preferences for receiving the program, i.e. format, length, day, etc. These also help to inform the design and content.

DUPLICATION

Are there similar existing programs that overlap and might reduce the chances of being funded? What is the unique niche that this program will address?

DEMAND

Is there a demand? Would participants actually attend? Document this willingness, i.e. likelihood of attending, existing waiting lists, etc.