

Using Qualitative Data in Assessment: Data Collection, Analysis, and Theoretical Frameworks

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Assessment of student outcomes has received increasing attention in biology education in recent years. Qualitative data can provide detailed information about student learning that may not be accessible by quantitative data. This interactive workshop will engage audience in hands-on analysis of qualitative data that can be used to assess student learning. From these activities, participants will learn about sources of data and how to collect them, analyze and code data using two different approaches (deductive vs. grounded), and discuss the importance of reliability and validity. We will use sample data collected from free-response survey items that probe how students understand the purpose of undergraduate laboratory courses. This session is designed for both novices (i.e. someone who has considered using qualitative data but may be unsure of how to begin) and others who have had some experience with qualitative analysis. After this session, participants are expected to get a sense on how to approach the collection and analysis of qualitative data and to develop deeper understanding of qualitative analysis that is grounded in theoretical frameworks.

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