The definition of qualitative research from the PsycINFO database thesaurus: “A type of research methodology that produces descriptive data, with little emphasis given to numerical quantification.”

To find qualitative research articles search the word “qualitative.” Additional possible search terms are: action research, autoethnography, case studies, ethnography, ethnology, field study, focus groups, interviews, grounded theory, observation, oral history, phenomenology.

Combining terms with “AND” narrows search results. Each article retrieved should contain all major concepts.

This search retrieved 4 peer-reviewed articles in the Education Full Text database.

Limit to: Peer-Reviewed
Never limit to Full Text

Combine synonyms or similar terms with OR:
- stem education
- qualitative or “case studies” or interviews
- high school or secondary or middle school or adolescence

This search retrieved 17 peer-reviewed articles.

Use the truncation or wildcard symbol (*) to search all word endings:
adolescent* = adolescent, adolescents, adolescence

Found the perfect article? Review Subjects for additional possible search terms.
The PsycINFO database thesaurus defines Quantitative Methods (Quantitative Research) as a “form of research methodology in which experimental variables and relationships are assigned numerical value.”

To find quantitative research articles use some of the following key words: quantitative research, statistical analysis (preferred term in the ERIC database), quantitative methods (preferred term in the PsycINFO database).

Additional search terms are: longitudinal study, longitudinal method, mixed methods research, surveys, Likert scale, scale.