

**Conducting Participant Observation (e.g., Attend, Describe, and Reflect on a Religious Ritual of a Different Group; Observe Elections Practices)****Participant Observation of a Religious Belief and Practices****What is participant observation?**

Participant observation is a method of gaining deep understanding of a group's values, beliefs, practices, and way of life. In participant observation, one has to immerse oneself and be part of a group that being studied to collect data. This research method has been introduced by anthropologist Bronislaw Malinowski and Franz Boas.

There are two ways to gather data through participant observation. The first is through subjective observation wherein one uses personal involvement with the research subjects to interact with and gain further access to the group. Second is objective observation wherein one removes all emotions and biases that can influence one's observations and findings.

**What will you do?**Before

Pick a religion that you want to study and observe. Plan a trip to one of its mass or celebration. Remember to ask for permission from your school and parents. Write a letter of request to the church that you are going to visit. Ask for help from your teacher regarding the written request as the school needs to approve it. Once you've prepared all the documents that you need, start preparing yourself by researching about the beliefs, practices, and way of life of its members. Condition your mind for the immersion.

During

Observe how the people act and behave in the church or celebration. Observe the language that they use and all the things that they do in their church. You may interview some members of the religious group regarding their personal religious or spiritual beliefs and add this to your final output.

After

Write a reflection paper about your findings. Write a paper not less than 1000 words using APA 6.0 Format. Make sure that you have a title page. The title page and reference page are not counted in your minimum word-count.

In the paper, evaluate the values, substantive values, orientation, language, perspective, and prescriptions and proscriptions of the religious group you observed. You may include the interviews that you conducted but your analysis will be only counted as part of the minimum word count requirement.

**Conducting Participant Observation (e.g., Attend, Describe, and Reflect on a Religious Ritual of a Different Group; Observe Elections Practices)****Checklists**

Here are the things that you will need to observe or answer in your participative observation. We have studied these in the lesson.

- A. Values
- B. Substantive values
- C. Orientation
- D. Language
- E. Perspective
- F. Prescriptions and proscriptions