

Stories of Impact

Meaningful and Efficient Qualitative Evaluation

Brianna Hooks Singletary
Lyssa Wilson Becho

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evalu-ate.org



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OUR Vision

EvaluATE envisions an ATE community in which evaluation is valued, systematic, and used to improve the education of technicians in high-tech fields.

OUR Mission

EvaluATE's mission is to engage the ATE community with information, expertise, and tools to advance high-quality evaluation.

EvaluATE

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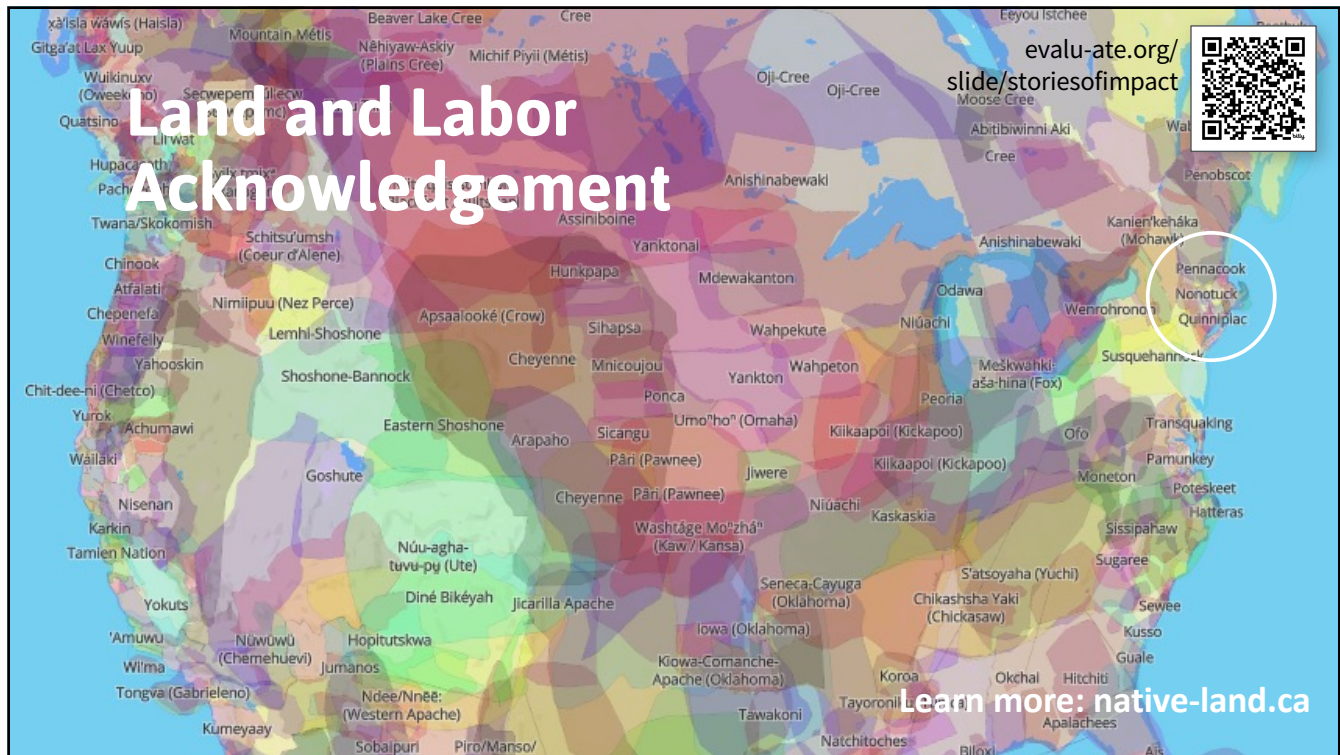
Materials

Slides

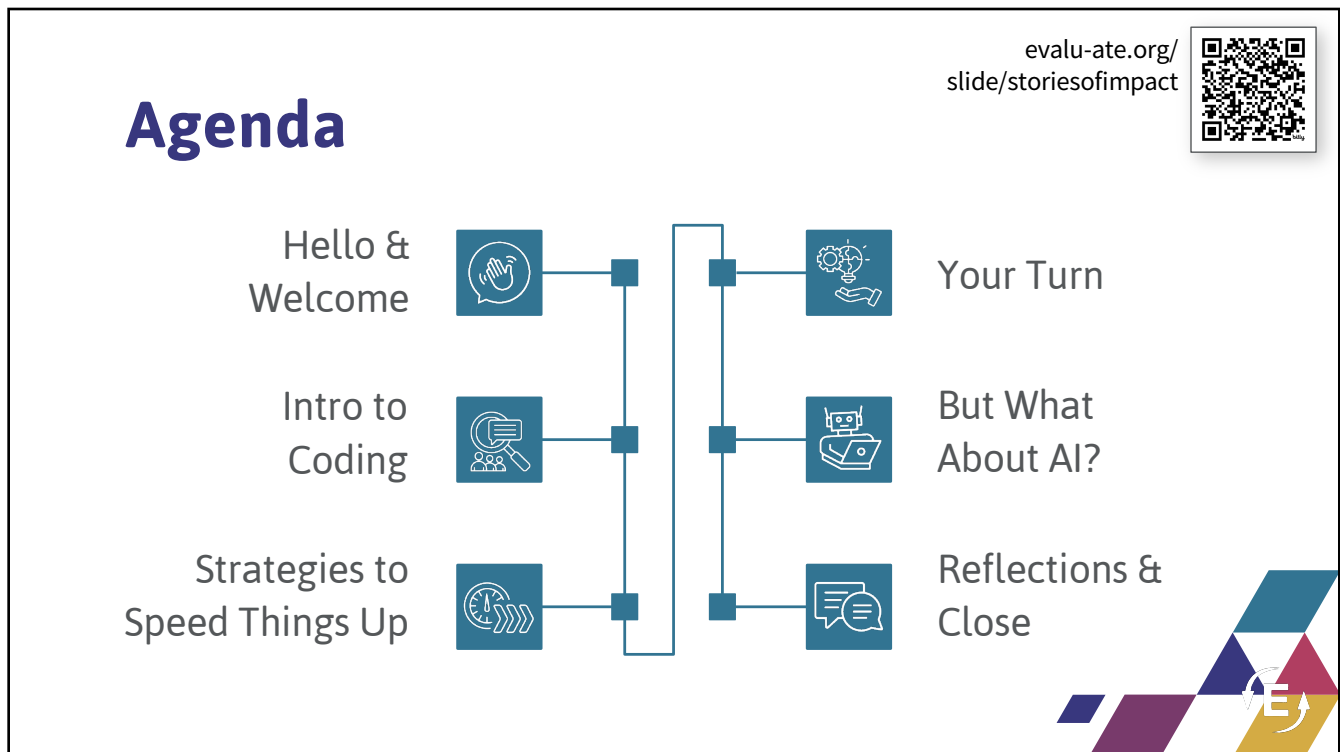
Additional Materials

evalu-ate.org/slide/storiesofimpact

4



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8

Intentions

- Understand the principles of rapid qualitative analysis
- Learn new strategies to make qualitative evaluation more accessible in low-resourced situations
- Explore and apply practical tools and techniques




9



**Have you analyzed
qualitative data for a
project evaluation before?**


10



Candy Sorting

An Ice Breaker Activity

10:00



11



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Qualitative Data Methods



Interviews



Focus
Groups



Observations



Surveys

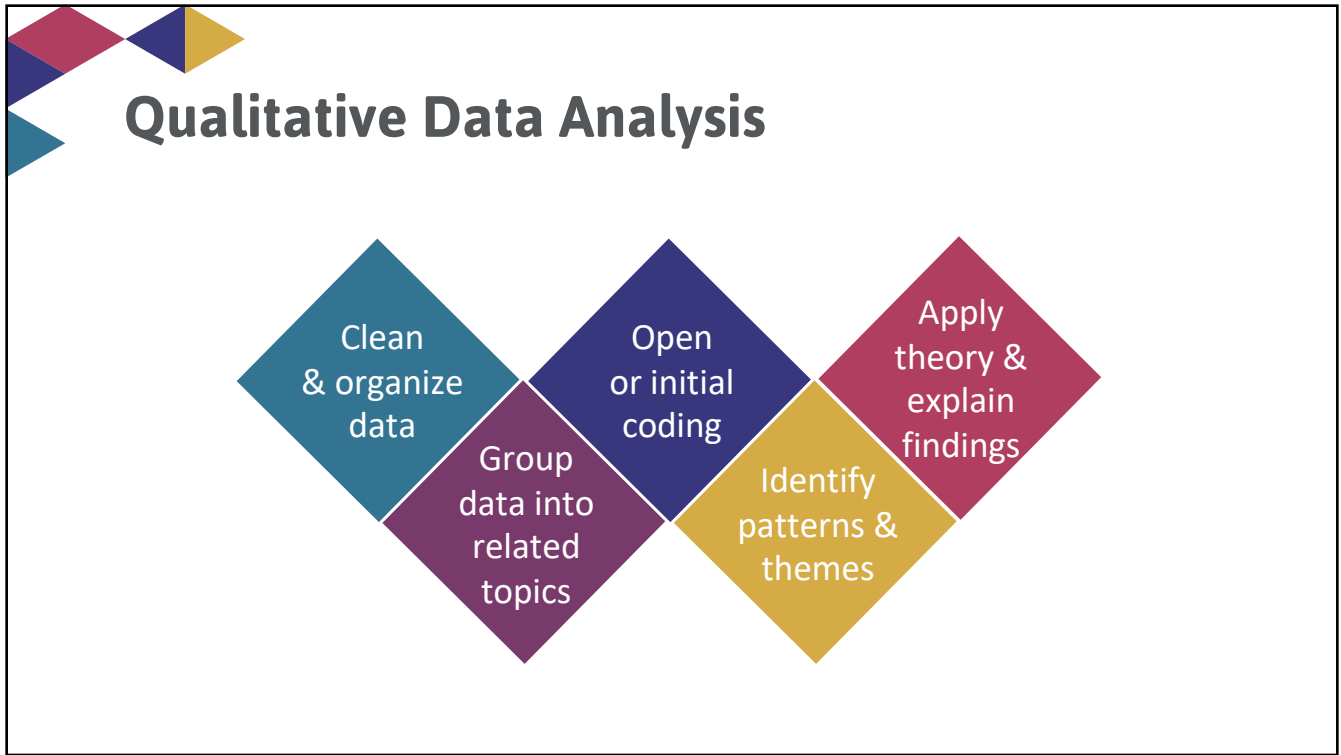


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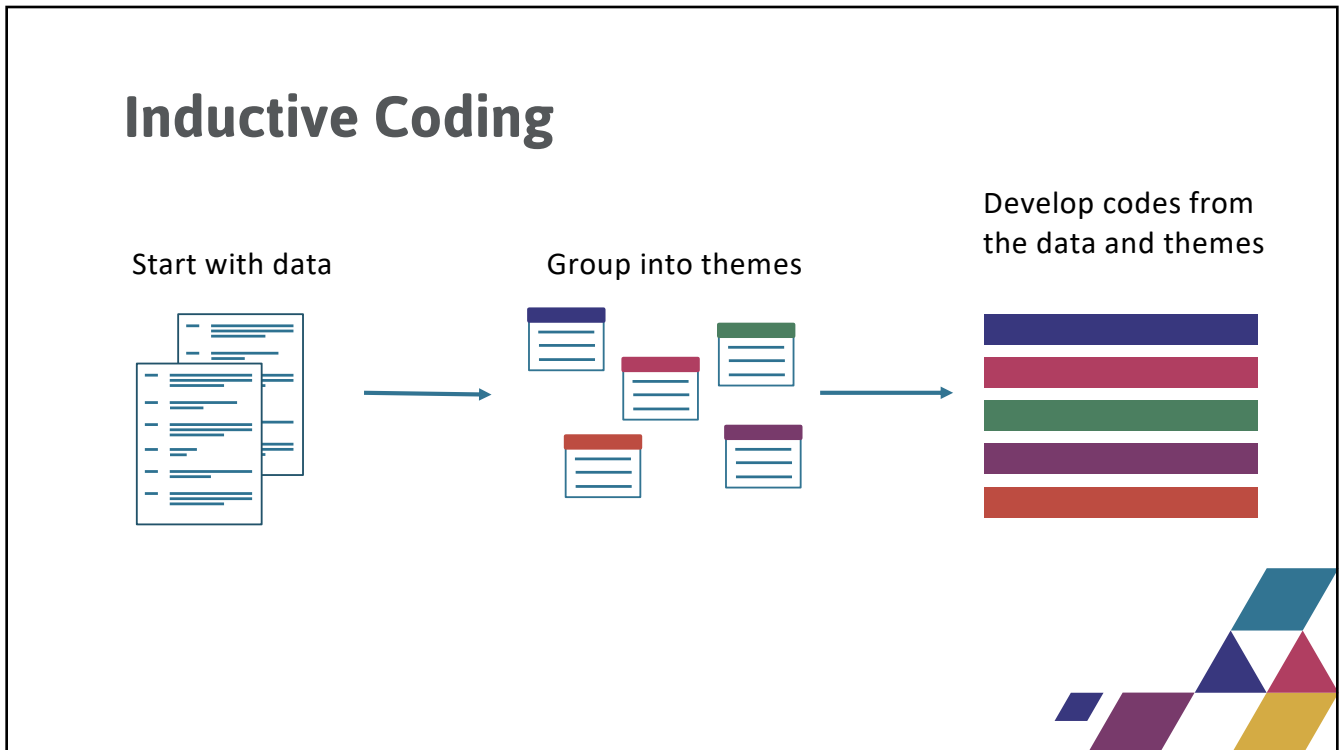
Qualitative Data Analysis



14



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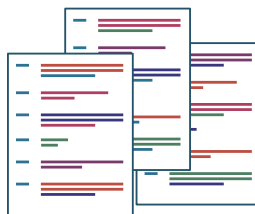
16

Deductive Coding


Start with codes



Find excerpts that fit the codes



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How have you used qualitative methods in your evaluation work?

Group Discussion

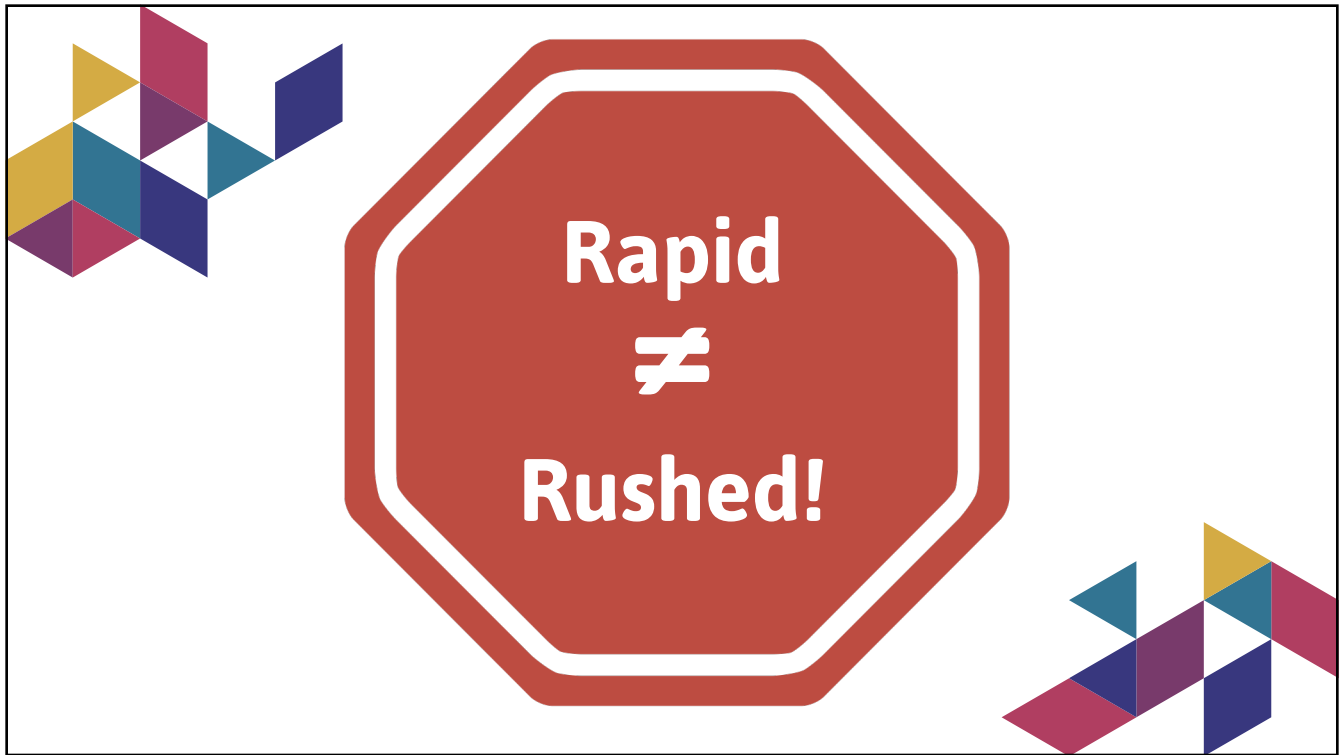
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Addressing Common Evaluator Challenges with RQA

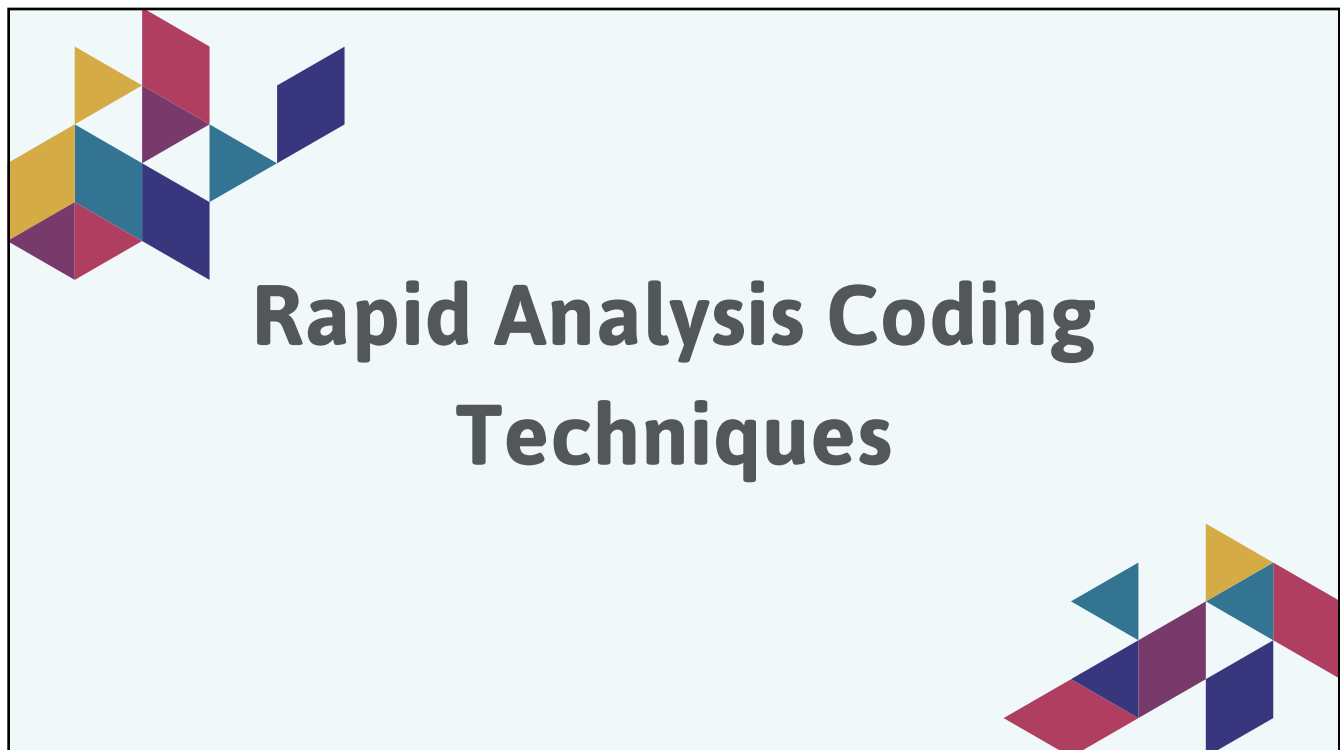
-  Time constraints
-  Requirements for other evaluation or research components
-  Need for deliverables or progress update
-  Urgent issues (e.g., addressing equity concerns)




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	Qualitative Analysis	Rapid Qualitative Analysis
Purpose	In-depth exploration to understand nuance, detailed phenomena	Provides quick, actionable insights for time-sensitive decisions
Ideal for	In-depth research, theory development	Project evaluation, fast projects, early stage research
Data Collection	Flexible, often explores a broad range of topics based on emerging patterns	Focuses on essential, pre-defined questions
Data Processing	Detailed involves iterative coding, categorization, and theming	Fast, uses structured templates and frameworks for quick analysis
Time Needed	Long (weeks to months or years)	Typically, short (days to weeks)
Deliverables	Detailed reports with rich descriptions	High-level summaries and recommendations

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Interview Summary Notes

detailed notes taken throughout the interview

Handout 4


Interview Summary Notes

Interview 1

The following summary notes were developed during the interview. They are intended to capture high-level insights and key takeaways from the discussion.

- How has your experience been as a partner in the TechForward Robotics Workforce Development project?
 - Very positive
 - Consistent communication
 - Partnership allows them to tap into the talent pipeline
 - Appreciate how students are curious about solving real-world problems
- How satisfied are you with the program participants, specifically in robotics, AI, and precision machining? Are there any standout skills or areas for improvement?
 - Students are strong in robotics- specifically automation systems and programming
 - A recent hire jumped into a project on collaborative robots. Within weeks was diagnosing problems.
 - Precision machining is an area that needs more experience--Some hesitations on tight tolerances on custom machines. Need hands-on experience
- How well do you think the program aligns with the current and future needs of the robotics industry? Any emerging technologies or skills that should be added to the curriculum?
 - Meet immediate needs
 - Industry is evolving
 - Systems integration -- Students need more experience here connecting robotics with other systems like IoT devices
 - Experience on Cyber security and automation -- safeguarding automation systems would be "invaluable."
- Have you hired any graduates from the Riverbend program? If so, how has their performance been?
 - 2 graduates
 - One made an impact by streamlining processes for robotic welders
 - Adapt to tools and workflow quickly
 - Not a lot of foundational training is needed, just finetuning for their organization's processes
 - More training on precision making
- What do you think are the key factors for maintaining strong partnerships between RoboTech Solutions and the TechForward program beyond the current funding?
 - Open communication
 - Regular check-ins
 - Recruiting from underrepresented groups -- need more resources here
 - A diverse workforce brings in a fresh perspective
- What support have you implemented to ensure inclusivity for employees from diverse backgrounds?
 - Pairing new employees with seasoned employees. Help with skills and acclimating to the culture
 - Diversity training
 - Would love more resources and support from the program here

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Handout 4


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Interview Summary Notes


Inductive Analysis

- How has your experience been as a partner in the TechForward Robotics Workforce Development project?
 - Very **positive** *Overall experience*
 - Consistent communication** *Communication*
 - Partnership allows them to **tap into the talent pipeline** *Perceived value*
 - Appreciate how students are **curious about solving real-world problems** *Student attitudes*

1. Read the interview notes
2. Highlight or underline key points or ideas
3. Label with codes
4. Refine and group codes
5. Summarize the main themes
6. Review and make adjustments



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Interview Summary Notes

Deductive Analysis

Deductive Code Book Handout 10

This codebook provides a structured framework for analyzing feedback from industry partners regarding the Technical Skills Workforce Development Initiative at Westwood Community College. It is designed to guide the evaluation of key areas, including program implementation, participant outcomes, workforce alignment, and sustainability.

The codes and subcodes outlined here will help categorize and interpret qualitative data from partner interviews, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of how the program meets industry needs and fosters inclusive workforce development.

- Overall Experience as a Partner:** Respondents describe their general experience working with the initiative, focusing on collaboration, quality of the partnership, and relevance to robotics and industrial technologies.
 - **Subcodes:**
 - **Perceived Value:** How the partnership benefits both the program and the industry partner.
 - **Engagement Level:** How often and how deeply partners are involved in the initiative.
 - **Satisfaction:** Overall happiness with their involvement in the initiative.
- Satisfaction with Participant Skills:** Assessment of participants' technical skills, highlighting strengths and areas for improvement in robotics, AI, and precision machining.
 - **Subcodes:**
 - **Technical Proficiency:** Skills in robotics, AI, and precision machining.
 - **Soft Skills:** Skills like communication, problem-solving, and teamwork.
 - **Preparedness:** Readiness of participants for industry jobs.
 - **Skills Gaps:** Areas where participants lack technical or soft skills.
 - **Curriculum Relevance:** Need for updating or expanding the curriculum.
- Alignment with Industry Needs:** How well the programs meet current and future workforce demands, including relevant skills and new technologies.
 - **Subcodes:**
 - **Current Alignment:** How well the curriculum matches today's industry needs.
 - **Future Needs:** Anticipation of future skills and industry trends.
- Hiring and Retention of Program Graduates:** Experience with hiring or keeping graduates and how well they perform in advance of manufacturing roles.
 - **Subcodes:**
 - **Hiring Success:** Number of graduates hired.
 - **Performance Satisfaction:** Satisfaction with graduates' job performance.
 - **Retention:** Success in keeping program graduates over time.
 - **Underrepresented Groups:** Focus on Black/Latinx American and Latinx participants.
- Sustainability of Partnerships:** Factors that help maintain partnerships with local manufacturers and support recruitment and employment for underrepresented groups beyond the current funding period.
 - **Subcodes:**
 - **Long-Term Partnership Potential:** Likelihood of keeping partnerships after current funding ends.
 - **Key Sustainability Factors:** Elements that help or hinder the sustainability of partnerships.
 - **Employer Engagement:** Level of ongoing support from local manufacturers.

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Review predetermined codebook


Read the interview notes

Highlight relevant segments

Assign codes

Add comments (optional)

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Interview Audio

a recording of a conversation between people, capturing the questions and answers for later use.



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Interview Audio Inductive Analysis

1. Create a coding matrix
2. Listen to audio segments
3. Note key concepts
4. Assign codes to each segment
5. Refine the codes
6. Summarize the main themes

Time Segment	Key Concepts/ Words	Code	Notes/ Observations
<i>EXAMPLE: 0:00-0:00</i>	<i>"difficulty hiring graduates"</i>	<i>Hiring challenges</i>	<i>Mentioned lack of hands-on experience.</i>
Clip 1	<i>"positive experience" "talent pipeline" "Consistent communication" Strong in robotics – automation system</i>	<i>Positive experience Access to talent pipeline Strong skills in robotics</i>	<i>A good experience with a student diagnosing issues</i>

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Interview Audio Deductive Analysis

1.
Review the Predetermined Codebook


2.
Create a Coding Matrix for Organization

3.
Create and Listen to Audio Segments

4.
Apply Codes to Each Segment

5.
Provide Supporting Quotes or Key Concepts

6.
Review and Refine Codes



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**TechForward
Robotics
Workforce
Development
Project**

Case Study

Skills development
Industry collaboration
Diversity focus

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**TechForward Robotics Workforce
Development Project**

Case Study

IMPLEMENTATION
How well have strategies such as flexible scheduling, targeted recruitment, and partnerships with local manufacturers been implemented to **meet the needs of minoritized groups and the regional robotics industry?**

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TechForward Robotics Workforce Development Project

Case Study

EFFECTIVENESS

How effectively has the program **reduced the robotics and advanced manufacturing skills gap**, particularly for Black/African American and LatinX community members?

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TechForward Robotics Workforce Development Project

Case Study

OUTCOMES

What progress have participants made in **obtaining robotics certifications and securing employment** in advanced manufacturing roles, especially among minoritized groups?

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TechForward Robotics Workforce Development Project

Case Study

SUSTAINABILITY

What factors influence the potential for **sustaining partnerships with local manufacturers** beyond the current funding cycle, and how can these partnerships support ongoing recruitment and employment for minoritized groups?

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Practice Time

As a group, we will practice inductive and deductive coding using audio files and interview summary notes.




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Inductive coding

A bottom-up approach where codes emerge directly from the data without a preconceived framework.

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Interview Summary Notes

Inductive Analysis

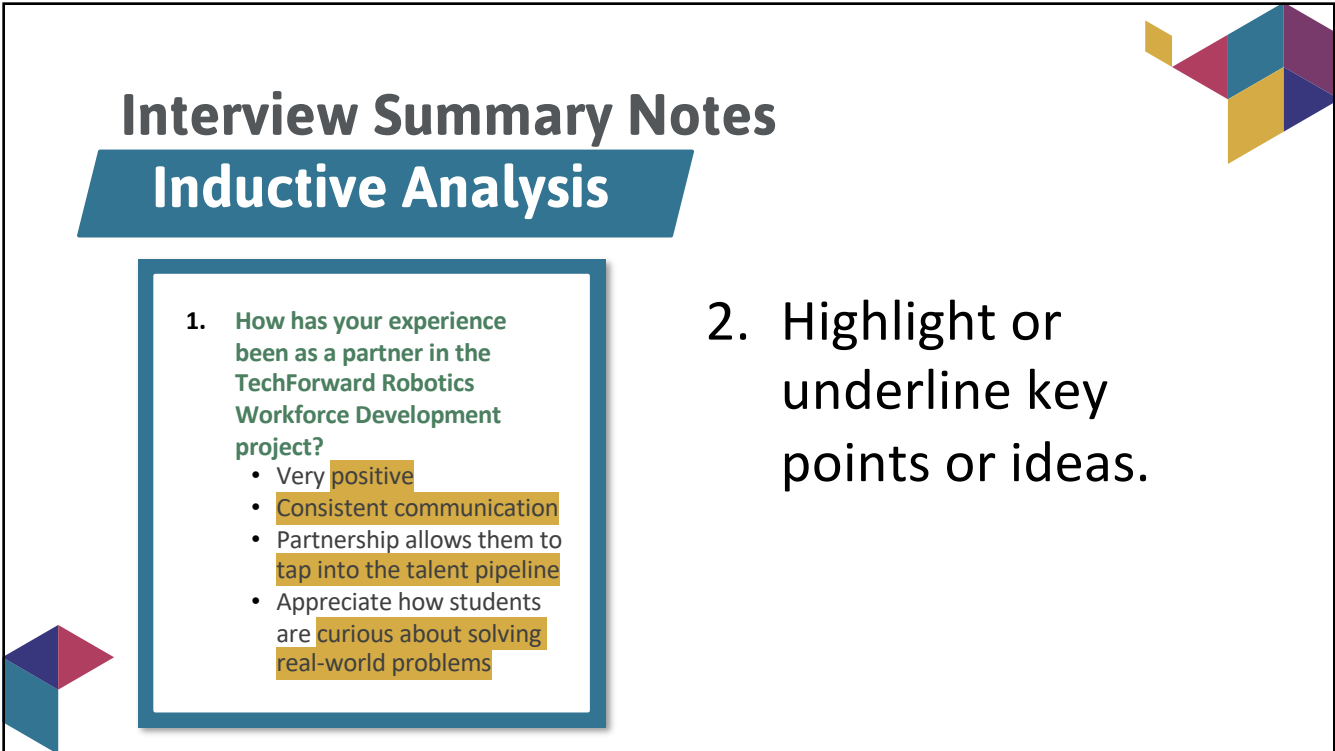
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- Very positive
- Consistent communication
- Partnership allows them to tap into the talent pipeline
- Appreciate how students are curious about solving real-world problems

1. Read the Interview Notes Carefully



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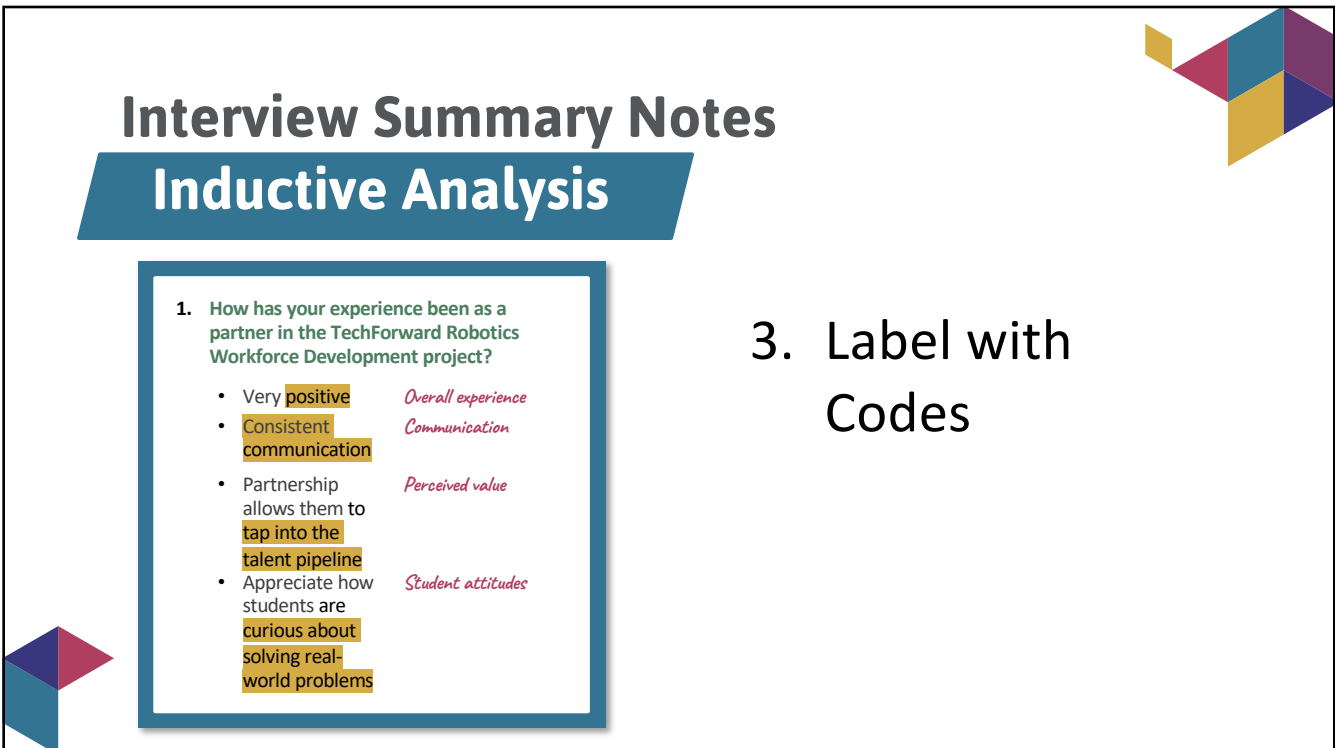


Interview Summary Notes

Inductive Analysis

1. How has your experience been as a partner in the TechForward Robotics Workforce Development project?
 - Very positive
 - Consistent communication
 - Partnership allows them to tap into the talent pipeline
 - Appreciate how students are curious about solving real-world problems
2. Highlight or underline key points or ideas.

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Interview Summary Notes

Inductive Analysis

1. How has your experience been as a partner in the TechForward Robotics Workforce Development project?
 - Very positive *Overall experience*
 - Consistent communication *Communication*
 - Partnership allows them to tap into the talent pipeline *Perceived value*
 - Appreciate how students are curious about solving real-world problems *Student attitudes*
3. Label with Codes

40

Interview Summary Notes

Inductive Analysis

1. How has your experience been as a partner in the TechForward Robotics Workforce Development project?

- Very **positive** *Overall experience*
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1. Read the Interview Notes Carefully
2. Highlight or underline key points or ideas.
3. Label with Codes

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Interview Audio

Inductive Analysis

1. Create a Coding Matrix for Organization

Time Segment	Key Concepts/Words	Code	Notes/Observations
EXAMPLE: 0:00-0:00	"difficulty hiring graduates"	Hiring challenges	Mentioned lack of hands-on experience.
Clip 1			

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Interview Audio Inductive Analysis

2. Create and Listen to Audio Segments



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Interview Audio Inductive Analysis

3. Note Key Concepts

Time Segment	Key Concepts/Words	Code	Notes/Observations
EXAMPLE: 0:00-0:00	"difficulty hiring graduates"	Hiring challenges	Mentioned lack of hands-on experience.
Clip 1	"positive experience" "talent pipeline" "Consistent communication" Strong in robotics - automation system		A good experience with a student diagnosing issues



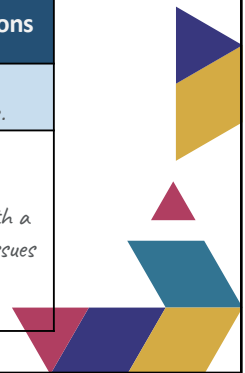
44

Interview Audio

Inductive Analysis

4. Assign Codes to Each Segment

Time Segment	Key Concepts/Words	Code	Notes/Observations
EXAMPLE: 0:00-0:00	"difficulty hiring graduates"	Hiring challenges	Mentioned lack of hands-on experience.
Clip 1	"positive experience" "talent pipeline" "Consistent communication" Strong in robotics - automation system	Positive experience Access to talent pipeline Strong skills in robotics	A good experience with a student diagnosing issues




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Deductive coding

A top-down approach where you apply a predefined set of codes based on existing theories, frameworks, or hypotheses.

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Deductive Code Book

Handout 10


Deductive Code Book

This codebook provides a structured framework for analyzing feedback from industry partners regarding the TechForward Robotics Workforce Development Initiative at Riverbend Community College. It is designed to guide the evaluation of key areas, including program implementation, participant outcomes, workforce alignment, and sustainability.

The codes and subcodes outlined here will help categorize and interpret qualitative data from partner interviews, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of how the program meets industry needs and fosters inclusive workforce development.

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Interview Summary Notes

Deductive Analysis



Handout 10


Deductive Code Book

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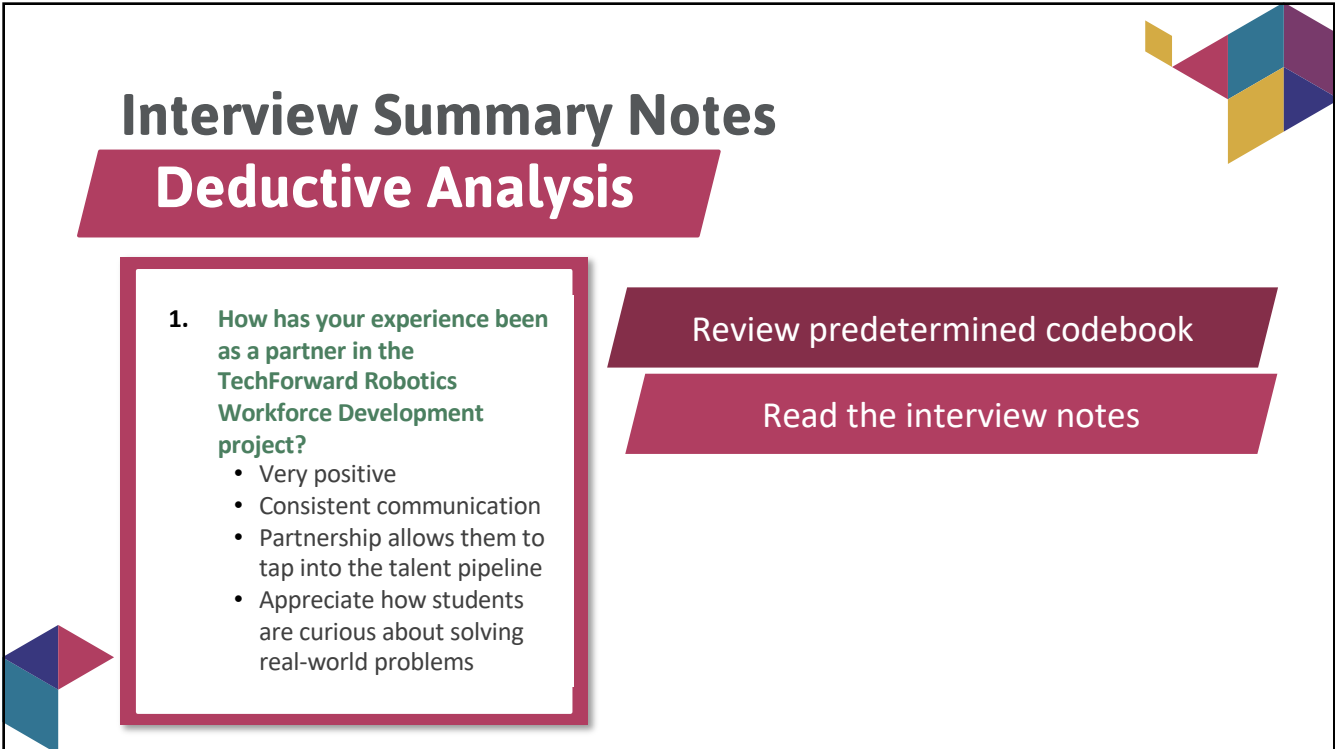
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Review predetermined codebook

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Interview Summary Notes

Deductive Analysis

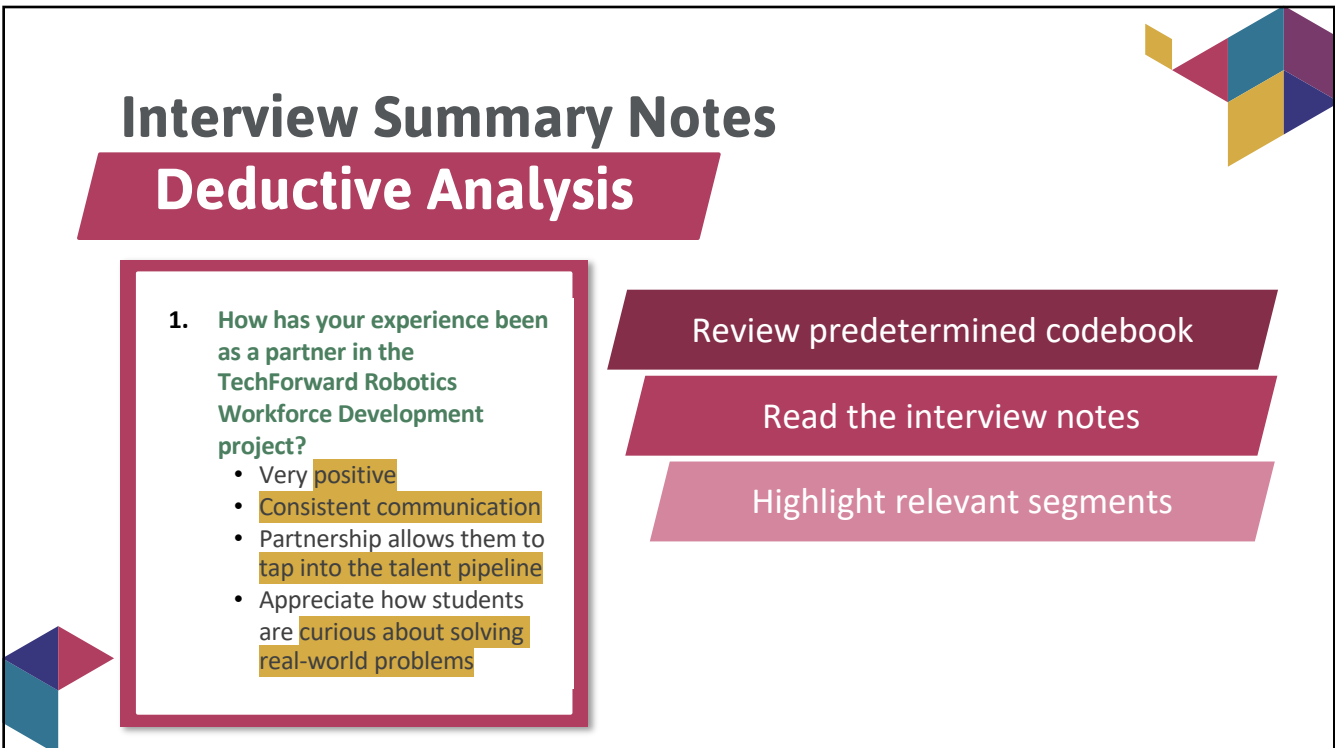
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- Very positive
- Consistent communication
- Partnership allows them to tap into the talent pipeline
- Appreciate how students are curious about solving real-world problems

Review predetermined codebook

Read the interview notes

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Interview Summary Notes

Deductive Analysis

1. How has your experience been as a partner in the TechForward Robotics Workforce Development project?

- Very positive
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Review predetermined codebook

Read the interview notes

Highlight relevant segments

50

Interview Summary Notes

Deductive Analysis

1. How has your experience been as a partner in the TechForward Robotics Workforce Development project?

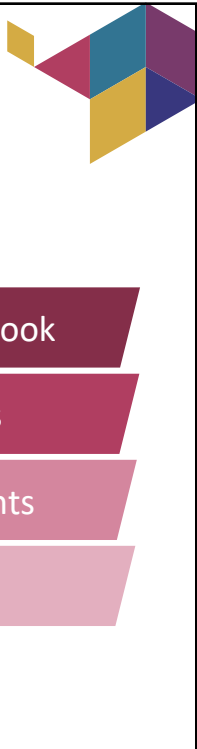
- Very **positive** *Satisfaction*
- **Consistent communication** *Engagement level*
- Partnership allows them to **tap into the talent pipeline** *Perceived value*
- Appreciate how students are **curious about solving real-world problems** *Preparedness*

Review predetermined codebook

Read the interview notes

Highlight relevant segments

Assign codes



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Interview Summary Notes

Deductive Analysis

Deductive Code Book Handout 10

This codebook provides a structured framework for analyzing feedback from industry partners regarding the TechForward Robotics Workforce Development Initiative at Rowland Community College. It is designed to guide the evaluation of key areas, including program implementation, participant outcomes, workforce alignment, and sustainability.

The roles and subroles outlined here will help categorize and interpret qualitative data from partner interviews, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of how the program meets industry needs and fosters inclusive workforce development.

1. **Overall Experience as a Partner:** Respondents describe their general experience working with the initiative, focusing on collaboration, quality of the partnership, and relevance to robotics and related technologies.
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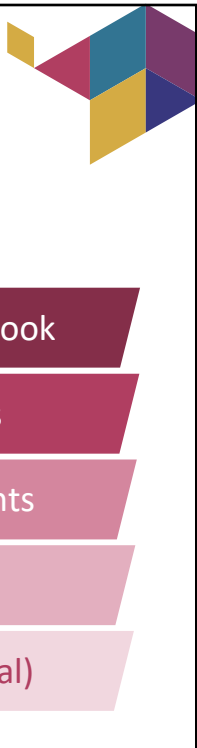
Review predetermined codebook

Read the interview notes

Highlight relevant segments

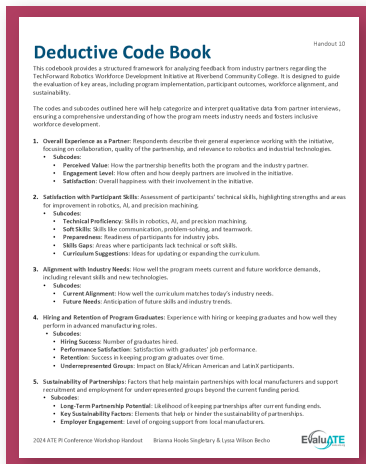
Assign codes

Add comments (optional)



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Interview Audio Deductive Analysis



1. Review the Predetermined Codebook

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Interview Audio Deductive Analysis

2. Create a Coding Matrix for Organization

Time Segment	Relevant Code	Supporting Quote/Key Concepts	Notes/Observations
EXAMPLE: 0:00-0:00	Hiring challenges	"difficulty hiring graduates"	Mentioned lack of hands-on experience.
Clip 1			

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Interview Audio

Deductive Analysis

3. Create and Listen to Audio Segments



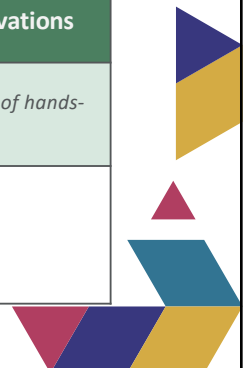
55

Interview Audio

Deductive Analysis

4. Apply Codes to Each Segment

Time Segment	Relevant Code	Supporting Quote/Key Concepts	Notes/Observations
EXAMPLE: 0:00-0:00	Hiring challenges	"difficulty hiring graduates"	Mentioned lack of hands-on experience.
Clip 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Satisfaction Technical proficiency Perceived value Preparedness 		



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Interview Audio

Deductive Analysis

5. Provide Supporting Quotes or Key Concepts

Time Segment	Relevant Code	Supporting Quote/Key Concepts	Notes/Observations
EXAMPLE: 0:00-0:00	Hiring challenges	"difficulty hiring graduates"	Mentioned lack of hands-on experience.
Clip 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Satisfaction Technical proficiency Perceived value Preparedness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "positive experience" "consistent communication" "solid talent pipeline" "strong in robotics" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are strong in automation systems and programming Student was able to diagnose issues

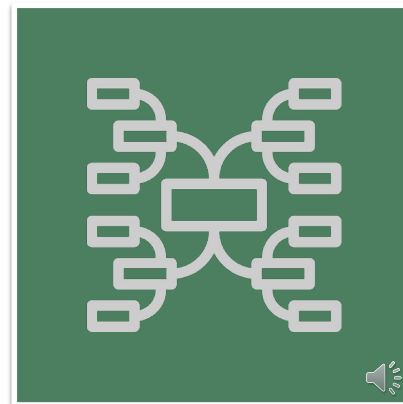


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Interview Audio

Deductive Analysis

6. Review and Refine Codes




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Thoughts on Inductive and Deductive Coding

1. What was your biggest challenge during the inductive and deductive coding?
2. Which coding approach felt more intuitive?
3. How would you improve your coding process?



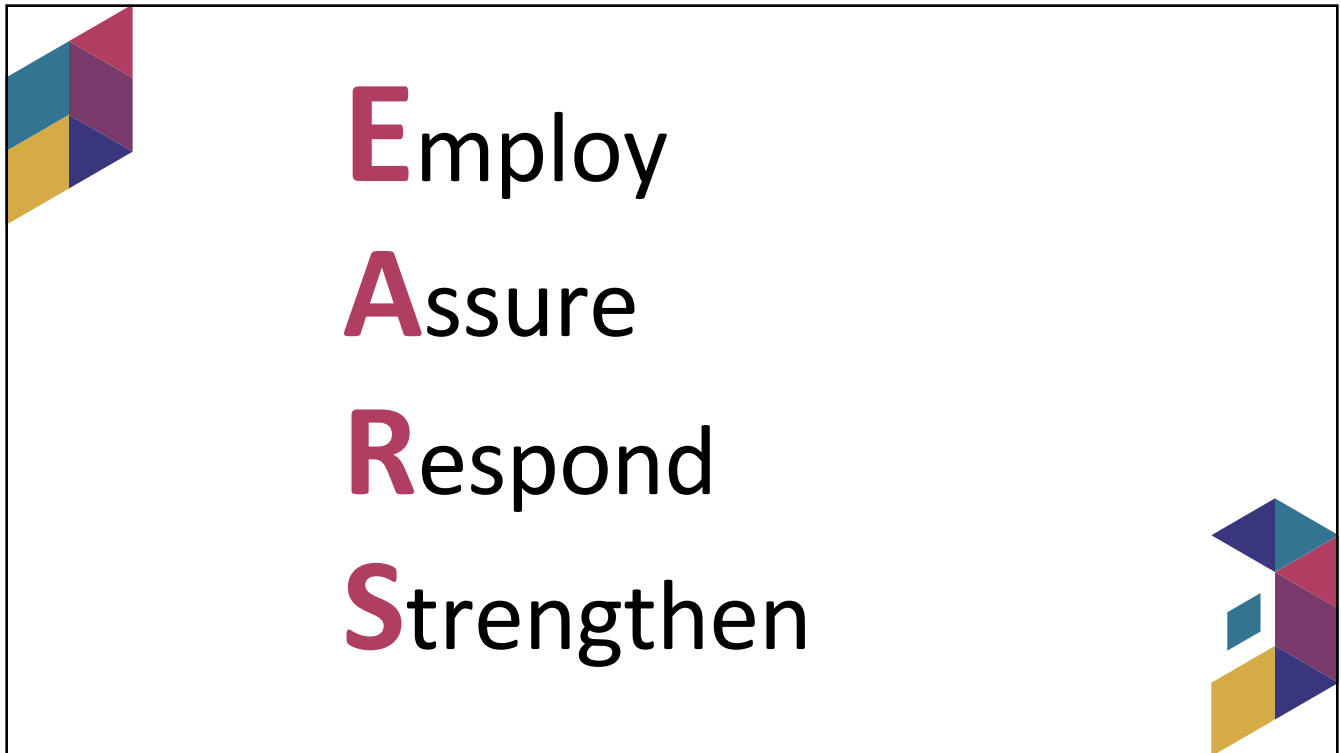
59



Break Time

10 minutes


60



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Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research

RQA Framework

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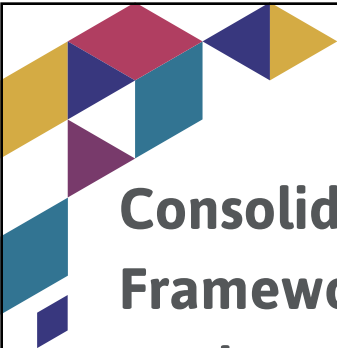
Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research

RQA Framework

Domains

- Innovation
- Outer Setting
- Inner Setting
- Individuals
- Implementation Process

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Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research

RQA Framework

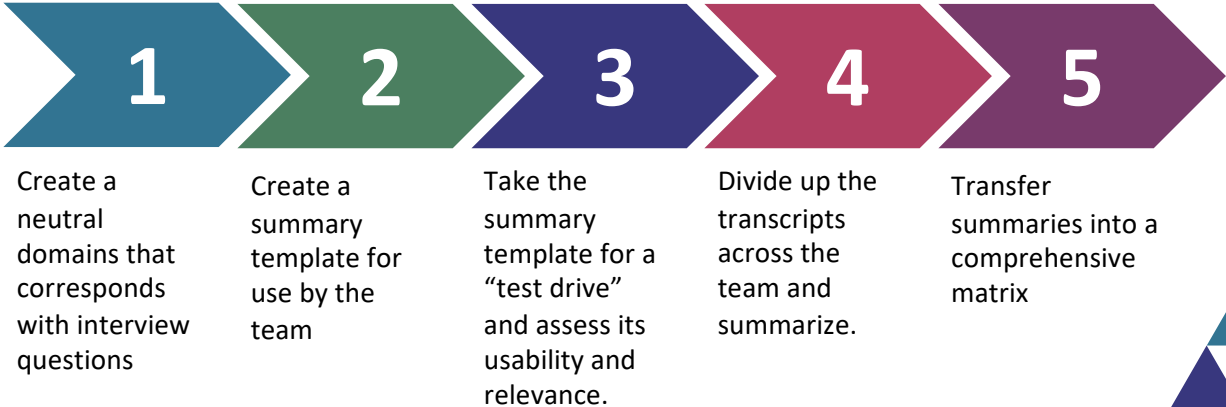
Implementation Suggestions

1. Define the CFIR Domains for the Project
2. Note-taking and Coding Right After Interviews
3. Refine Notes and Use a Codebook
4. Assign Ratings for CFIR Constructs
5. Write Interview Summaries
6. Review and Discuss


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Hamilton RQA Method

RQA Framework



- 1**
Create a neutral domains that corresponds with interview questions
- 2**
Create a summary template for use by the team
- 3**
Take the summary template for a "test drive" and assess its usability and relevance.
- 4**
Divide up the transcripts across the team and summarize.
- 5**
Transfer summaries into a comprehensive matrix



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Rigorous and accelerated data reduction (RADaR) technique

RQA Framework

- Step 1** Ensure that all the data transcripts are formatted similarly
- Step 2** Place formatted data transcripts into an all-inclusive Phase 1 table
- Step 3** Reduce data in the Phase 1 table to produce a Phase 2 data table
- Step 4** Further reduce the Phase 2 table into additional tables
- Step 5** Draft the project deliverables using the final data table.

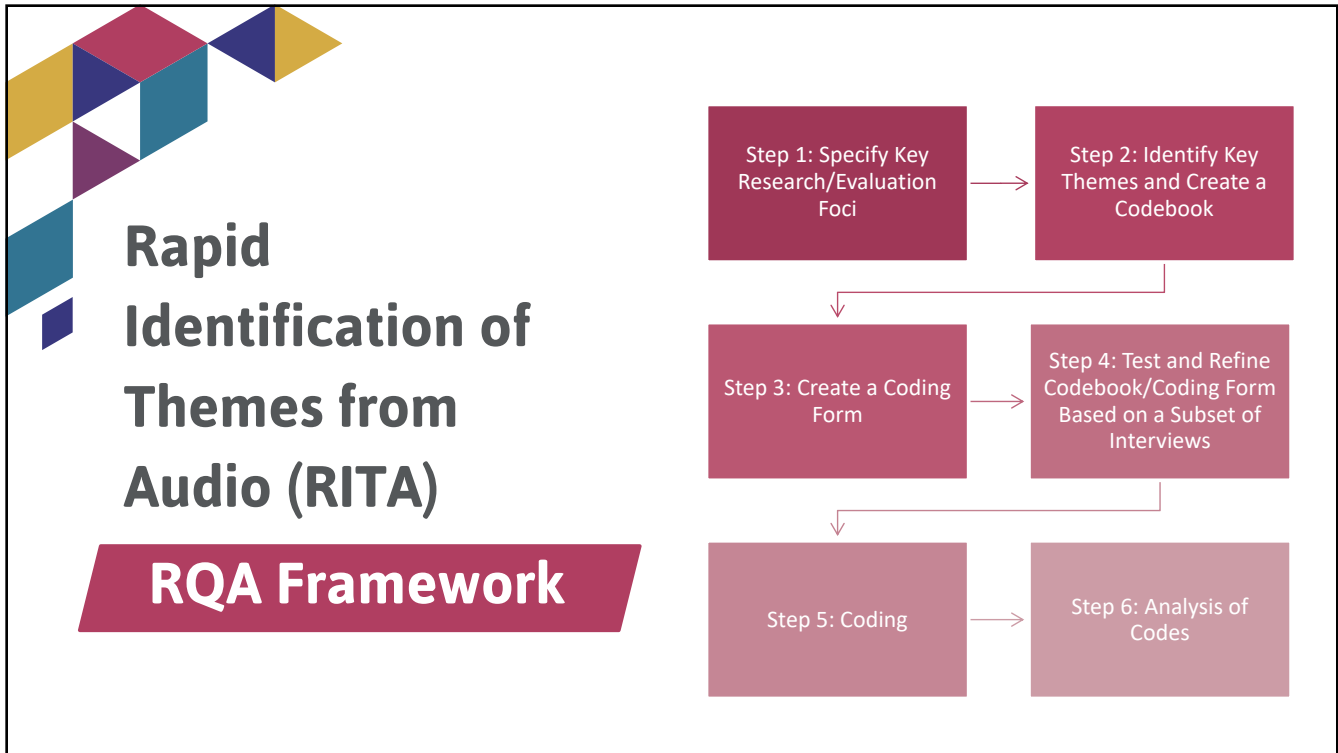
67

Rigorous and accelerated data reduction (RADaR) technique

RQA Framework

Transcript #	Question	Response	Code	Notes

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Rapid Identification of Themes from Audio (RITA)
RQA Framework

	Clip 1	Clip 2	Clip 3	Clip 4	Clip 5	Clip 6	Clip 7
Theme 1:							
Sub Code:							
Sub Code:							
Sub Code:							
Theme 2:							
Sub Code:							
Sub Code:							
Sub Code:							
Theme 3:							
Sub Code:							
Sub Code:							
Sub Code:							
Theme 4:							
Sub Code:							
Sub Code:							
Sub Code:							
Sub Code:							

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Rapid Identification of Themes from Audio (RITA)


RQA Framework

RITA Coding Form Handout 22

In each audio clip, identify whether a theme occurs and mark its presence with a checkmark. Additionally, code the sentiment (valence) of the theme as + (positive), - (negative), or 0 (neutral). Focus only on whether the theme appears in the segment, not its frequency.

	Clip 1	Clip 2	Clip 3	Clip 4	Clip 5	Clip 6	Clip 7
Theme 1: Overall Experience as a Partner							
Sub Code: Perceived Value		✓ +					
Sub Code: Engagement Level							
Sub Code: Satisfaction		✓ +					
Theme 2: Satisfaction with Participant Skills							
Sub Code: Technical Proficiency		✓ +	✓ +	-			
Sub Code: Soft Skills		✓ +					
Sub Code: Preparedness		✓ +					
Sub Code: Skills Gaps							
Sub Code: Curriculum Suggestions				✓ 0			
Theme 3: Alignment with Industry Needs							
Sub Code: Current Alignment				✓ 0			
Sub Code: Future Needs					✓ 0		
Theme 4: Hiring and Retention of Program Graduates							
Sub Code: Hiring Success				✓ 0			
Sub Code: Performance Satisfaction				✓ +	✓ +		
Sub Code: Retention							
Sub Code: Underrepresented Groups					✓ 0	✓ 0	
Theme 5: Sustainability of Partnerships							
Sub Code: Long-Term Partnership Potential						✓ 0	
Sub Code: Key Sustainability Factors					✓ 0		
Sub Code: Employer Engagement							

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Artificial Intelligence in Qualitative Analysis




72



Have you used AI-assisted technology to support your work?

73

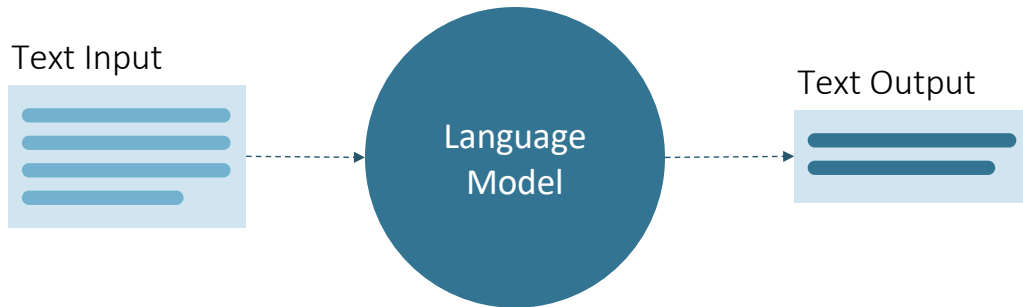


Have you used AI-assisted technology to analyze evaluation data?

Have you used AI-assisted technology to support your work?

74

Large Language Models



75

Considerations When Using AI



Use AI as your assistant.

It cannot replace you.



AI lacks context.

It only has the data you give it.



AI needs supervision.

It hallucinates.

76

Considerations When Using AI



AI isn't good at "why" questions.

Its good at spotting patterns, not understanding motivations.



AI is biased.

It exacerbates human error that is already there.

77

Considerations When Using AI



AI isn't good at "why" questions.

Its good at spotting patterns, not understanding motivations.



AI is biased.

It exacerbates human error that is already there.



Not all AI data security is made equal.

78

Using AI to Support RQA

AI-Assisted Note Taking

AI-Assisted Transcription

AI-Assisted Data Organization

AI-Assisted Coding

AI-Assisted Exploration of Transcripts

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Using AI to Support RQA

AI-Assisted Note Taking



 Otter.ai

 marvin

 AVOMA

FATHOM 

80

Using AI to Support RQA AI-Assisted Transcription



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Using AI to Support RQA AI-Assisted Data Organization



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Using AI to Support RQA

AI-Assisted Coding



MAXQDA

NVIVO

insight

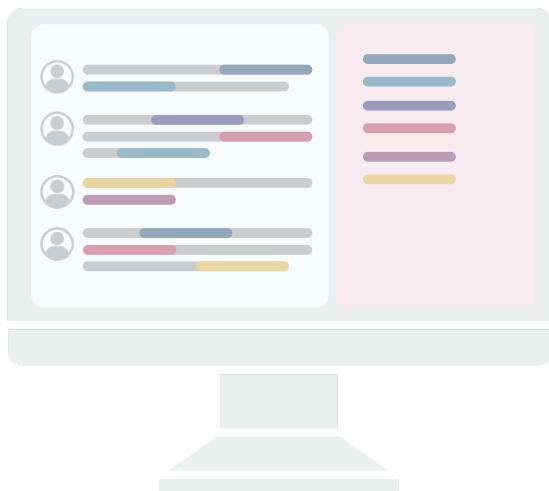
Delve



83

Using AI to Support RQA

AI-Assisted Coding



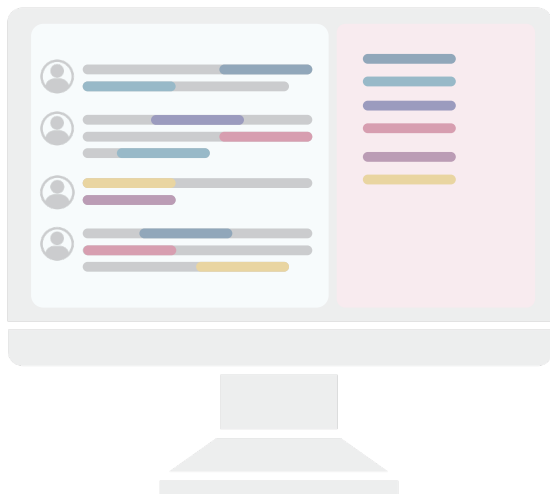
“Develop a detailed thematic analysis report based on the qualitative data collected from interviews with participants. Highlight key patterns, insights, and emerging trends to inform decision-making processes.”



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Using AI to Support RQA

AI-Assisted Coding

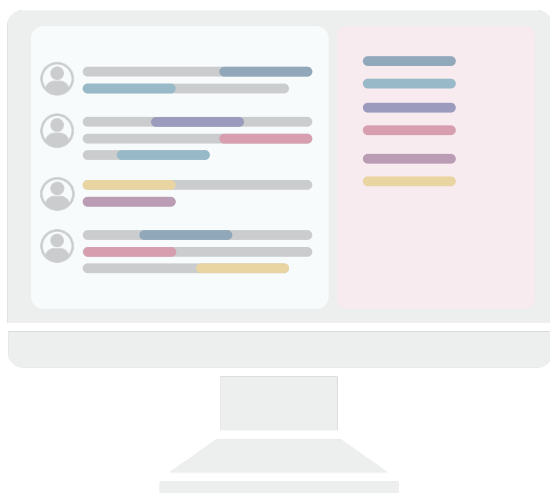


“Summarize the key insights from in-depth interviews conducted as part of an evaluation. Distill complex narratives into concise summaries that capture the essence of participants’ experiences and perspectives.”

85

Using AI to Support RQA

AI-Assisted Coding



“Base your responses strictly on the provided information and don’t add any external information.”

86

Using AI to Support RQA

AI-Assisted Exploration of Transcripts



87

Using AI to Support RQA

AI-Assisted Exploration of Transcripts



“What are the most common suggestions participants made for improving the program?”



88

Using AI to Support RQA

AI-Assisted Exploration of Transcripts



“How do participant perspectives vary by role (e.g., faculty, students)?”



89

Using AI to Support RQA

AI-Assisted Exploration of Transcripts



“Summarize what participants said about the workplace-based learning component of our project.”



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Let's Try!



- Offered through my institution
- Inputs remain on local server
- Doesn't use inputs for training



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Reflections & Closing

92

Individual Reflection

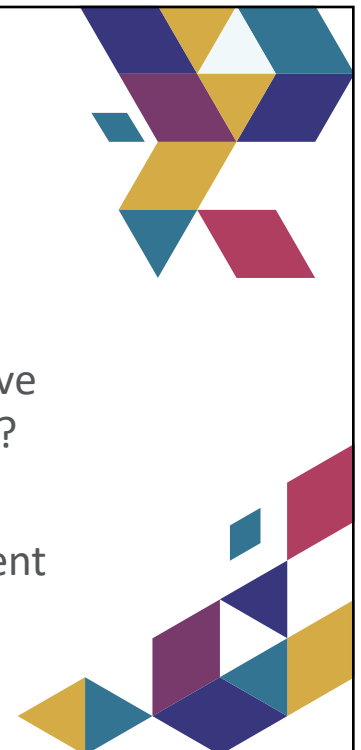
- What was the most surprising thing you learned today?
- Can you identify areas where rapid qualitative analysis might not be suitable for your work? Why?
- What changes might you make to your current evaluation(s) based on this workshop?



93

Group Reflection

- What was the most surprising thing you learned today?
- Can you identify areas where rapid qualitative analysis might not be suitable for your work? Why?
- What changes might you make to your current evaluation(s) based on this workshop?



94



Please, take a minute to complete our


Feedback Survey

bitly



A slide for a feedback survey. It features a large QR code on the right side, with the text 'Please, take a minute to complete our Feedback Survey' to its left. A blue arrow points from the text towards the QR code. The QR code has the 'bitly' logo at the bottom right. The slide is decorated with colorful geometric shapes (triangles and quadrilaterals) in shades of purple, blue, yellow, and red, arranged in abstract patterns in the top-left and bottom-right corners.



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Thank you!

Brianna.hookssingletary@wmich.edu
Lyssa.becho@wmich.edu

See what else EvaluATE's up to at the conference this year!



A slide with a 'Thank you!' message. It features two email addresses: Brianna.hookssingletary@wmich.edu and Lyssa.becho@wmich.edu. Below the email addresses is a QR code with a blue 'E' logo in the center. To the left of the QR code, the text 'See what else EvaluATE's up to at the conference this year!' is displayed, with a yellow arrow pointing towards the QR code. The slide is decorated with colorful geometric shapes (triangles and quadrilaterals) in shades of purple, blue, yellow, and red, arranged in abstract patterns in the top-left and bottom-right corners.

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