## Pre-coding activity guide

This activity comes from the Chapter Three of *Thematic Analysis: A Practical Guide*. The cross-references refer to book content. Any articles cited can be found in the reference list of the book.

Before we show you what coding looks like, read the excerpts in Box 3.2. Hopefully it’s apparent that there are lots of assertions and contestations around the meaning of choosing not to have children and being a parent. There are lots of explicitly stated (or semantic) ideas, as well as different assumptions and concepts that underpin what the commenters write – the logic-frameworks behind what is claimed, that allow it to make sense (latent ideas). Think about what and how you might code it.

# Box 3.2: A selection of six extracts from childfree dataset

*CHCA*: Why do people assume that choosing to be childfree automatically means that you won't have children in your life? My partner and I have decided not to have kids for a range of personal, environmental and social reasons. But I am a Godmother, an aunt, an older cousin, and a friend to many children. Contrary to common misconception those who choose not to have kids are rarely lonely, just more self-aware. In many cases those who choose not to have kids have usually thought a lot more about that decision than those who reproduce

*DARE*: Very, very well said. Clearly you have never had baby brain.

*MACL*: And conversely, in many cases those who choose to have children have thought a lot more about that decision than those who choose not to have children. We're an ageing society... And I think parents are pretty self-aware as our children's behaviour is reflected right back at us. For better or for worse.

*GRKO*: lets not forget those who would die to have kids of their own, but for one reason or another cant. . .

*DARE*: Agreed. The pity is there's no shortage of people who shouldn't have kids. Should almost have to take a pill TO have a kid.

*SHHA*: I think you have to want to amd be prepared for the challenge ahead. Those who dont have kids might have other goals they want to achieve good for them im not hating and I wouldnt change my life for anything my daughter did it for me amd I am grateful : )