Apply

# Exercise 6.1

Not every document you come across in your research has to be treated as a set of true or false statements. Take any one document relevant to your topic and ask:

 How has the document been put together to make its statements seem credible?

 What can you learn from this about how the topics you are concerned with are being ‘constructed’ by the authors of this document?

 Where could you find other documents which might construct these ‘facts’ differently?

# Exercise 6.2

The following activity is meant to help you think through the issues raised in this chapter about the value and implications of different ways of gathering and analysing qualitative data. Please go through the following steps, ideally with another student:

1. Define your research topic in no more than two sentences.

2. Explain which method you propose to use to gather data. Why that method?

3. Why would other methods not be possible or appropriate?

4. How big a data sample do you intend to collect? Could you manage with fewer data? Might you need more?

5. What theoretical approach (e.g., naturalist or constructionist) do you favour? How will it help or hinder you in the analysis of your data?

6. What other approaches might be appropriate or inappropriate? Why?

7. Is there anything about your theory, method and data that could be simplified to make a more effective study?