

Questions to Guide Qualitative Data Interpretation

1. What are some of your first impressions about the data? (Were they positive, negative, thoughtful, not thoughtful?)
2. What points arose more than once in the data? What themes or patterns are emerging?
3. How many of the responses are the same or similar?
4. Were there any differences in the data that could be attributed to a specific group (based on gender, ethnicity, length of time in the program, participation in certain activities, and so on)?
5. How do these patterns relate to the overall evaluation questions?
6. Are there any deviations from any of the patterns? If yes, what kinds? How many of the responses are different? Are there any factors that might help explain these deviations (gender of the respondent, the length of time in the program, and so on)?
7. Are there any surprises? What are these?
8. What responses didn't surprise you at all? Why?
9. Are there any interesting quotes that can be used or stories that further explain or exemplify a particular pattern? Can these stories or examples be used to help illuminate the broader evaluation question?
10. Do these patterns match other findings that you have discovered while collecting other types of data for the evaluation? If not, what might explain these differences?

Source: Sabo Flores, K. (2008). *Youth participatory evaluation: Strategies for engaging young people*. San Francisco: John Wiley & Sons. (Page 151)