

Chapter 3
Topic 6 Participant observation
Page 142
Activity: Research
The rules of the game

Learning objective

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- Evaluate the strengths and limitations of using non-participant observation.

Carry out a non-participant observation by watching a TV broadcast of a sport you are unfamiliar with, e.g. baseball, darts, American football etc. Your aim is to understand how the game is played so you could explain it to someone else.

Watch for about 30 minutes. Make notes, including any specialist terms the commentator uses.

1. What difficulties did you have making sense of things?
2. Would participant observation have been a better or a worse method to use?