

## Research Design Activities

Consider each of the research goals below, and propose a research design that could help answer the research questions or provide more information about the topics. Highlight some of the strengths/weaknesses of the approach.

### Research designs (see handout)

1. Posttest-only control group design
2. Pretest-posttest control group design
3. Solomon four-group design
4. Factorial designs
5. Repeated measures designs
6. Qualitative designs (e.g. focus groups, surveys, interviews, observations)

### Research Goals

1. Determine if self-esteem increases for students who utilize the Center for Academic Support, or take an Art class, or attend Landmark versus another college
  - **Research Design:**
  - **Strengths of design over alternatives:**
  - **Weaknesses of design over alternatives:**
  - **Threats to validity:**
  - **Confounds:**
2. Identify the facts that contribute to student retention for students who have been enrolled for at least 2 semesters
  - **Research Design:**
  - **Strengths of design over alternatives:**
  - **Weaknesses of design over alternatives:**
  - **Threats to validity:**
  - **Confounds:**

3. Evaluate the effectiveness of visual organizers on academic performance
  - **Research Design:**
  - **Strengths of design over alternatives:**
  - **Weaknesses of design over alternatives:**
  - **Threats to validity:**
  - **Confounds:**
  
4. Assess the development of “nonverbal cue awareness” for students who are learning how to give presentations
  - **Research Design:**
  - **Strengths of design over alternatives:**
  - **Weaknesses of design over alternatives:**
  - **Threats to validity:**
  - **Confounds:**
  
5. (Additional study idea)
  - **Research Design:**
  - **Strengths of design over alternatives:**
  - **Weaknesses of design over alternatives:**
  - **Threats to validity:**
  - **Confounds:**