New Mexico Biliteracy-Bilingualism Seal Focus Groups: Analyzing Data

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Agenda

1. Overview and brief review of the coding session

2. Presentation: Analyzing focus group data

3. Practice: Analyzing Seal focus group data

4. Discussion: Review of the analysis experience

5. Wrap-up and next steps

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Today's goals

- Learn how to analyze the focus group data.

- Practice analysis of the data and discuss the process.

Project overview

- Define what we want to learn and why.

- Determine participants.

- Create protocols.

- Recruit participants.

- Conduct focus group sessions.

- Code the data.

- **Analyze the data.**

- Communicate findings to key stakeholders.

- Use the findings to achieve project goals.

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Why are we doing this project?

Conduct focus groups to better understand districts' and schools' challenges and successes with the state's Seal of Biliteracy-Bilingualism implementation.

The New Mexico Public Education Department will use the results to improve guidance and support for districts and schools.

Districts and schools use the guidance and support to improve implementation and increase numbers of and equitable access for students to earn the Seal.

Students who earn the Seal have better motivation, language and academic proficiency, and college and career opportunities.
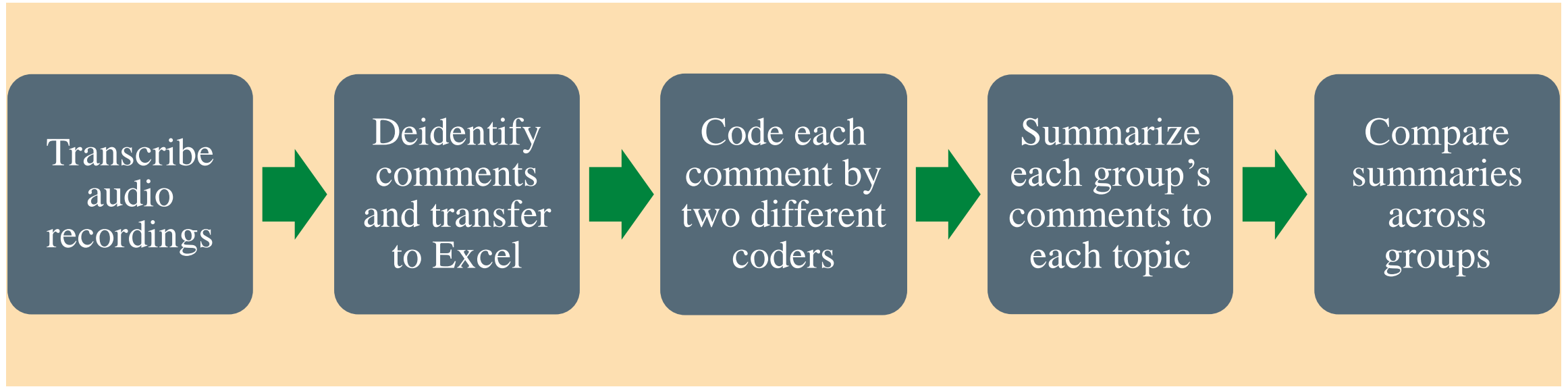
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We conducted ten focus groups.

- Bilingual and world language teachers: 3 groups

- Special education teachers: 1 group

- District directors: 4 groups (1 virtual)

- Students: 1 group

- Tribal educators: 1 group

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Focus groups covered 13 main topics.

1. What were the original reasons for adopting the Seal?

2. What are the current priorities for the Seal program?

3. How and when are students informed about the Seal?

4. How and when are parents informed about the Seal?

5. How and when do students sign up?

6. Are students with individualized education programs pursuing the Seal?

7. How are students recognized as they work toward the Seal?

8. Which pathways are used for demonstrating proficiency?

9. Are the requirements appropriate; does the Seal indicate proficiency?

10. What additional resources would be helpful?

11. What are the successes?

12. What are the challenges?

13. Are there any recommendations for improving the Seal program?

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From focus group session to analysis

Transcribe audio recordings	→	Deidentify comments and transfer to Excel	→	Code each comment by two different coders	→	Summarize each group's comments to each topic	→	Compare summaries across groups

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Coding focus group data to prepare for analysis

- Analysis will involve sorting and summarizing comments about a common topic across and within participant types. Coding each comment will make it easier to sort and analyze the data.

- The "data" are the word-for-word written transcriptions of the audio-recorded focus group discussions.

- A planned, transparent, and systematic coding process ensures the following:
  - The findings reflect what focus group participants said
  - The findings are verifiable.

- We had two people code each set of data. Differences were reconciled.

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Coding of focus group data

Focus group and participant ID	Data	N/A	1. Original reasons	2. Current priorities	3. Inform students	4. Inform parents	5. Sign up students	6. IEP students	7. Recognize students	8. Which pathways	9. Proficiency	10. Needed resources	11. Success	12. Challenges	13. Recommendation	14. Other
TFG1 participant 4:	What we really need for that portfolio option though is a rubric, and it would be neat, it would be wonderful if there were a standard rubric across the state.								x		x					
TFG1 Moderator 1:	Mm-hmm (affirmative).	x														
TFG1 participant 4:	Because we were looking at the rubric from say … Well I don't want to mention any, uh, districts by name, but none of them are represented at this table let it suffice to say which have a rubric, um, that seemed very low standards in our eyes, such as like, "You should have a hook at the beginning and blah, blah, blah." Like things that seem like, "You should use this type face, and you should use this font size."								x		x					

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Presentation: Analyzing focus group data

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Sources of data for the focus group analyses

- Complete transcripts

- Abridged transcripts

- Notes

- Memory based

Qualities of a focus group analysis

- Be a voice of the focus group participants.

- Not everything is worth analyzing.

- Guard against your biases.

- Be systematic.

- Be verifiable.

Overall goals

1. Summarize the range of things that focus group participants said.

2. Give a sense of how much consensus there was about a topic.

3. For differences, describe the sources between and/or within a group.

What to look for when making comparisons

- Degree of similarity or difference *between* group/segments on the same topic.

- Degree of similarity or difference *within* group/segments on the same topic.

- The amount of involvement/energy in each group when participants discussed a particular topic.

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What to look for when analyzing focus group data

Extensiveness	Frequency
Intensity	Specificity

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Analysis using a computer program

- Analysis programs do not do coding or the analysis.

- Analysis programs help manage large amounts of data.

- Analysis programs are helpful if you need to conduct extremely detailed analysis.

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Organizing our analyses

- Summary into each white cell (each topic within each FG).

- Summarize across 4 director FGs and across 3 teacher FGs.

- Summarize across all FG types (bottom row).

- Our final analyses will summarize findings across all topics, all FGs.

Group	Participant Type	1. Original reason	2. Current priorities	3. Inform students	4. Inform parents	5. Sign-up students	6. IEP students	7. Recognize students	8. Which pathways	9. Proficiency	10. Needed resources	11. Success	12. Challenges	13. Recommendations
1	Directors 1													
2	Directors 2													
3	Directors 3													
4	Directors 4													
1--4	Across Director FGs													
5	Teachers 1													
6	Teachers 2													
7	Teachers 3													
5--7	Across Teacher FGs													
8	Special Ed teachers													
9	Tribal													
10	Students													
1--10	Across All													

Practice: Analyzing Seal focus group data

Discussion: Review of the analysis experience

Wrap-up and next steps

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Thank you!

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