

# Methodology

This research study required data collection methods that could evoke responses of a philosophical nature. In order to do so, I conducted a descriptive, qualitative research plan that employed two main instruments: surveys and semi-structured interviews. The questions asked through these two tools were intended to support the following main research questions:

1. *How does one justify who is and is not morally obligated to “give back” to the net greater good?*
2. *Is it the responsibility of individuals, organizations or government to make significant social change? Why?*

## *Surveys*

I conducted my nine-question qualitative survey on a platform called “Survey Planet”, which offered question provisions such as: multiple choice, long answers and numerical scale responses. My survey included a mix of multiple choice and longer answer responses, allowing me to capitalize on the amount of information I could gather from this instrument. The purpose of the survey was to provide me with a foundational understanding of my participants’ perspectives on philanthropy, which in turn helped shape my interview questions.

## *Interviews*

Semi-structured interviews took place during the second phase of my data collection process, and included a predetermined set of qualitative, open-ended questions. This form of interview allowed me to engage authentically with my participants and gather unique and personable information pertaining to my research. Interviews were the perfect accompaniment to the survey because they allowed me to investigate one's motives behind their response.