

**LESSON
6.5****Real-Life Application:
When Will I Ever Use This?**

For use with the lesson "Compare Surveys, Experiments, and Observational Studies"

Community Center

Most towns and cities have a local community center, like a senior center or a YMCA. These places offer courses and classes for the community to participate in, such as computer classes, gardening classes, and art classes. Sometimes the library or high school will also offer these kinds of classes, usually called Continuing Education

There is a lot of planning that goes into deciding which classes to offer, when to offer them, and to whom to offer them. Course organizers have to find a way to meet the community's needs while still staying in budget and on schedule.

In Exercises 1–5, use the following information.

The director of the community center in Farmingdale is designing the spring schedule for community classes.

1. She asks people who have taken multiple courses: *Do you enjoy the classes that have been offered by the community center?* Is this question biased? Explain.
2. Which is a better question to ask senior citizens to gauge their interest in taking a class on using computers to edit photos: *Do you, like other people your age, have trouble using your computer to edit photos?* or *If we offered a class that would help you better edit photos on your computer, would you be interested?* Explain.
3. The director goes through previous registrations from the past 3 years to see which classes were the most popular. Is this an experiment or an observational study? Explain.
4. The director wants to know the best way to hold registrations for the classes. She allows 5 classes to be registered online and 5 other classes to only be registered in person. Is this an experiment or an observational study? Explain.
5. The director has come up with the spring schedule. She wants to know the best way to get the information to the community this month. Explain whether she should investigate through an experiment or an observational study. Then explain how you would design the experiment or observational study.