



Palo Alto High School's Architectural Heritage Dominates All

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INTRODUCTION

There was an issue surrounding the solar panels that would have been installed in Palo Alto Senior High School's front parking lot and in the neighboring schools. The community states that the solar panels are "decreasing the value of [their] homes significantly" (Kadvany, 2018) and feels "like standing under aluminum bleachers at a football stadium" (Kadvany, 2018).



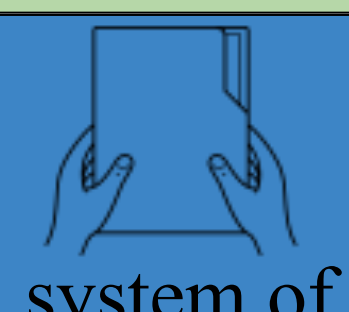
RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

Inquiry Approaches: *Content Analysis*
Qualitative > Quantitative



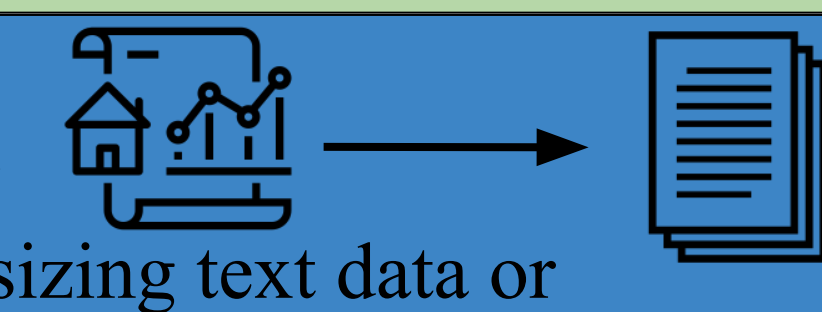
Research Methodologies

Database
Organized system of number

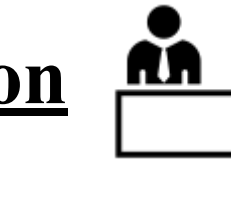


Coding

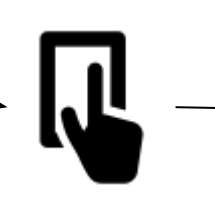
Synthesizing text data or pictures into categories



Execution Plan



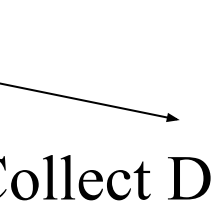
Interview



Surveys

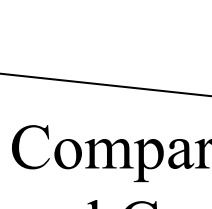


Review Responses



Collect Data

On Energy Bill



Compare and Contrast

CONCLUSIONS AND ANALYSIS

From the students' data, we can conclude that the solar panels were a success. We can also conclude that the solar panels had little to no effect on the students attending Paly. From Table 2, most students replied with "No, they haven't affected me," and we can infer that the solar panels have indeed not affected them in any way whatsoever. From the interview with Ms. Navarro, we can answer the second half of the research question. From all the complaints about the location of the panel, the district decided to move the panel to a location where the panel will not cause any problems.

IMPLICATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

My data collection was not completed. I only collected data from students and not adults. As a result, my data will be somewhat biased and not completely accurate. From the data that I do have, we can answer part of the research question: that the solar panels had no effect on the students and how the district decided to relocate the solar panels to a neutral location. In the future, I hope to collect all the data and get that energy bill from the solar panel in the coming months so that I have accurate and reliable data. After that has been completed, I can finally compare my finding.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / REFERENCES

Special thanks to Robert Cormia, Rebecca Navarro, and Erin Angell for helping make this project possible.

Works Cited:

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DATA AND FINDINGS

(Table 1) Question 1: What are your thoughts on Palo Alto High School's new solar panels ?

Students	Comment	Positive/Negative/Neutral
#1	"I think it's good.....using solar energy"	Positive
#3	"I think they're a good investment"	Positive
#4	"good investment to help reduce our carbon footprint"	Positive
#5	"I think they should implement more"	Positive

A shocking 60.6% said that their initial thoughts of the installation of the solar panels were positive. Student said they "...think they're a good investment" and "good...using solar energy." The other 39.4% said they had not even heard of the solar panels or just have no opinion on them.

(Table 3) Question 3: Do you believe the solar panels will positively or negatively affect the Palo Alto community? How and Why?

Student	Comment	Positive/Negative/Neutral
#1	"I do not think the solar panels will have much of an impact"	Neutral
#3	"bring more green energy...end up being worth more than their initial cost"	Positive
#4	"it emphasizes the need for green/eco friendly resources"	Positive
#5	"positively, greener energy "	Positive

"What aspects of the solar panels could possibly bring a negative aspect to the community?" was the initial thought. But after careful examination, students could have said some problems about the solar panels reflection, how it may have distracted drivers passing by, or the shading of some panels that could have blocked the sun from reaching the trees. Most of the students agreed that the solar panels brought only a positive influence. One student said said "[the solar panels] bring more green energy...end up being worth more than their initial cost"

(Table 2) Question 2: Have these new solar panels affect you in any way? If so, how?

Student	Comment	Positive/Negative/Neutral
#1	"No, they haven't affected me"	Neutral
#3	"No, I haven't been affected by the solar panels"	Neutral
#5	"no, just gave me a greater satisfaction with the school"	Neutral
#10	"They are good to stand under in the rain"	Positive

A resounding 93.5% of the majority didn't know that solar panels were there. The survey takers who did know the solar panels existed said that the solar panels have had a positive impact on them. They said "[the solar panels] just gave me a greater satisfaction with the school" and that "they are good to stand under in the rain."

(Table 4) Question 4: Should the aesthetics of Palo Alto High School matter more than the savings (money) the solar panels could give the school? Why?

Student	Comment	Positive/Negative/Neutral
#1	"I think the savings are more important than the way it looks"	Negative
#5	"no, absolutely not, because why would aesthetics be weighed against practical energy production and utility"	Negative
#4	"No.....it is more important to invest in these now rather than later"	Negative
#30	"I feel like Paly is a very resourceful and rich school already"	Positive

A shocking 12.1% of the survey takers said that they would much rather keep Paly's agricultural heritage than have clean renewable energy, that would be less expensive than electricity. However the majority as you can see above disagreed with the question and favored the renewable energy. The students who wanted a change said "I think the savings are more important than the way it looks" and questioned "why would aesthetics be weighed against practical energy production and utility."