Coding Guidance/Activity

Prep Ahead of Time: Prepare something that all students can access to write down students'
suggestions (a whiteboard, chalkboard, Google doc, etc.)
Estimated Time to Complete: 20-25 minutes
Pedagogical Features: Small group work, collaborative writing
When to Do: This is an introductory activity to coding. Before this activity, students should
understand that coding means identifying themes and sorting these themes into groups.
With this broad definition, students will be prepared for this activity.

The goal of this activity is to help students practice coding with something familiar before coding
their interview transcripts. This activity helps them practice the "moves" of identifying codes and
sorting data.

For this activity, students should collaboratively come up with a list of 15-16 items to code.
Instructors can choose the category of item (recommended: monsters, animals, food, hobbies,
etc.) This list should be written down on something that all students can see as they complete
the next part of the activity.

Working in groups of 3-4, students will then create 3 common codes to sort these items. They
should attempt to sort all 15-16 items into these 3 different codes. After 7-8 minutes of coding,
students should share what codes they chose and why, as well as how their items coded.

As time allows, students can also explain what items did not fit well into any codes or items that
fit into multiple codes to show the complexity of coding and the importance of choice when
coding items.