A. Sampling method used in each plan:

1. This plan uses a non-random method of sampling, specifically **purposive sampling**. Here, the members of the student group are deliberately choosing to question the people that they feel are best to include in their survey, in this case, the college sports fans.

   This plan's major shortcoming is that it does not include responses from a representative sample of the entire population, in this case, the student body, which is what the college administration is interested in. This sample will undoubtedly vote in favor of more support for sports teams and intramural sports, therefore resulting in a bias survey.

2. This plan uses a non-random method of sampling, where respondents are chosen based on **availability / convenience**. In this method, the group of students simply distribute questionnaires to sociology 101 students who will probably provide a higher response rate at completing the questionnaire, since being in a sociology class got them used to the procedure.

   This plan also has some shortcomings. The sample of sociology 101 students contains mostly freshmen, within a specific age range, and the majority of the students are probably sociology majors, both of which are not representative of the entire student body.

3. This plan also uses a non-random sampling method of choosing respondents
based on **availability / convenience**, since it only involves going to the cafeteria twice a day.

This method will most likely not include a true representative sample of the student population. This plan allows the interviewer to choose anyone from the cafeteria that he/she will be comfortable questioning (usually a person of his/her own same ethnicity or gender) or who may seem more approachable and willing to participate, or who will more likely want more support for sports. Also, utilizing just one of the cafeterias and sticking to specific time frames will omit the participation of anyone who is not at the right place at the right time. These shortcomings therefore prevent everyone from getting an equal chance to be included in the sample.

4. This research plan most closely represents the non-random method of **quota sampling**, since the student body is separated into specific sub-groups, from which a specific number of participants must be chosen, as long as the desired number of students in each strata is obtained. This allows for an equal ratio of sub-groups to be chosen, resulting in a more diverse distribution of respondents and thus, a more representative sample of the student population.

   This plan does, however, have one fault. Although it limits the researcher to only 20 interviews, it still allows him/her to choose from his/her own group of friends or other people who will be in favor of more sports funding, as long as they fit into the sub-group needed. This makes the selection processes not totally random, and thus influencing results.

5. **Simple Random Sampling (SRS)** is used in this plan since every tenth person who uses the busses and trains near the school are chosen at random.
Maintaining the randomness of choosing participants allows any person an equal chance to participate in the survey.

This plan also has shortcomings. First, it will miss getting responses from those people who do not use public transportation, as well as those who are not at the locations during the three specific time frames. Also, it is not certain that all persons who leave the busses or trains are Hunter students.

B. Among the five plans, it seems that plan #4 will result in a more representative sample of the entire student body population, since this plan uses specific data, separated into groups according to gender and ethnicity. Although it is not perfect, compared to the other plans, this one has the least amount of drawbacks associated with it. The only factor that may get in the way of resulting in a true representation of the student body, is the fact that the interviewers may be somewhat bias in their selection of participants. This can, however, be avoided if the students are honest and do not try to influence the results by choosing those who will best benefit the survey.

C. I would have chosen plan #4, since it will provide the most equal ratio between every group in the school, and therefore a truer representation. However, since no help from administration or outside sources can be used, I would have to choose plan #5. Out of all the other plans, it seems to use the most random method of selecting a sample. This plan will be even better if the research group planned to spread out its members in order to expand its coverage of time frames during the day. It may also be a good idea to have each interviewer be sure to ask every tenth 

You were supposed to go beyond the 5 plans and come up with your own ideas!
person if they are in fact Hunter students. Making these small changes will ensure that a truer representative sample of the student body population will be obtained.  

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