Simone appears to be having a hard time in math class lately. Her success rate on classroom assignments is declining, and when she turns in her homework assignments, most of her answers are wrong and some are left blank. Simone no longer participates in class discussions like she used to, and when she is given class time to work on practice problems she appears anxious and frustrated.

Simone’s math teacher, Mr. Nadkarni, is concerned. Up until this point, Simone had been doing fairly well in class. About a week ago he introduced decimals and fractions to the class for the first time, and he’s wondering if Simone is just having trouble catching on to the new material or if something else is going on that’s holding her back. If Simone is not understanding the material, Mr. Nadkarni would like to know what is specifically difficult for her so that he can help her understand the material in a way that makes sense to her. Mr. Nadkarni has asked you, the paraprofessional, to try and find out what’s going on with Simone.

Of the four assessment techniques discussed above (observations, interviews, tests, or portfolio), which method or methods will you choose in order to help you collect data for Mr. Nadkarni about what’s going on with Simone?

Why did you choose this/these method(s) over the other three?

Describe in detail how you would use this/these method(s) with Simone, be specific by including where and when.