**Reasons for Cohabitation Mini-Qualitative Analysis**

**EXAMPLE:** Travis, 29, accountant: “She didn’t want to live out of a handbag or out of her travel bag. And it seemed like a lot of wasted money, and it made sense, you know? Financially it made sense…It (living together) was more convenient for her job, so there were a lot of reasons why it made sense to do it. And we didn’t see a whole lot of negatives to doing it.”

THEME(S): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Andre, 25, mortgage processor: “We’re spending all the time together anyways, and basically all we were doing was living together with a commute. So why not just live together and then not have to worry about taking stuff back and forth, having clean clothes at the other person’s place, deciding whose place to stay at. [and] I’d say partly financial reasons… So that time was definitely very scary financially for me. And it was like, ‘I’m paying rent to two places, well, I’m paying rent and a mortgage. This is not working. We need to make things a little easier.” Later on “It was a matter of necessity at that point, for me anyways. It was the only logical choice. It was like, ‘I can’t afford this anymore. You need to move in.’”

2. Carrie, 24, teacher: “My, what is it called, lease, ran out in August and so that’s pretty much when it went from there. And I guess it kinda just made sense. ,I think it just kind of, because we had been living together like pretty much anyway, I think it was just logical. He had just moved in to his new apartment. It’s much bigger than mine. Much bigger than mine. And like room for the dogs because we were bringing, I was bringing my dog back and forth, he was bringing his dog back and forth and things like that. And also obviously just money wise it just made so much more sense because we’re spending you know, two rents, two cable, two this, two that, and we’re never obviously using any of them at the same time so, it just made more sense. But um, my parents don’t really know [laugh dubiously] so.”

3. Nicholas, 29, architect: “Because we really liked each other, actually for time, partially for convenience, partially because we like to optimize the amount of time we could spend together. I guess there were more practical things, too, like sharing bills and just kind of finding a good location for both of us, testing out to see if we are still going to be in a strong relationship together…. [also for the] groceries. I cook for her. She’s too busy to cook. She eats Taco Bell every day, which is bad.”

4. Carly, 19, unemployed: “It made sense, really. Like we were always together. I was over there every night, anyways. And it saved gas. It got to the point where I was just paying my rent at my other place, and I was never there. I had everything moved out, and I would just go there once a month and drop off a check for my roommate, just because I wasn’t over there. So it just made sense…. We both just thought it was logical. Like, I was staying over there every night anyway.”

5. Sabrina, 24, gourmet grocery clerk: “I just wanted to be with him. Like, it just felt good. It felt like, I just wanted to be close and like sleep in the same bed and play house, like that’s what it feel like. And it’s like this was not the deciding factor, but this was like, ‘Oh, here this is another plus,’ it’s really close to my school so like it’s convenient, too. It’s where we go out at night, and so like we can just walk to a place and go out and come home and I don’t have to drive all the way back to my parents’ house and I have a parking spot there.”

6. Brad, 29, graduate student: “She didn’t say like ‘let’s move in’ she said something like, ‘do you realize how much money we’re wasting’ I said, ‘yeah’ and then we started talking about it…It felt normal, it felt natural. It didn’t feel weird and I would say that’s the biggest thing. If it seemed weird or hadn’t seemed that that was the thing to do, we wouldn’t have done it. And on top of that, though, I would say like the financial stuff. It wasn’t like *the* reason but it was a good supporting reason, another reason to do what we thought was the normal thing to do.”

7. Matthew, 30, architect: “I mean, you know, the romantic answer is that because we know that eventually we’re going to be married, and that I didn’t see any point in not spending time with each other simply because some tradition says that we shouldn’t be living together, which I didn’t necessarily believe and luckily she didn’t either. But the other, I would say the other part of it is the fiscal reason. You know, she wasn’t going to make a lot of money starting right out of college, and she didn’t have a lot of money, she probably couldn’t afford to live the lifestyle that I was used to living at that point, so it made sense to pool our resources.”

8. Susan, 20, telemarketer: “Then I started dating Eugene and then ended up moving in with him just because, between the gas of driving back and forth and it was must more economical to move in with him. It’s not what I really wanted to do, but I just, we couldn’t afford to live by ourselves and separately, so we had, we just ended up moving in together.”

9. Patty, 18, barrista: “I think probably what spurred us living together is when my sister kicked me out. I was like, “What am I going to do? I don’t have enough money to live by myself.” All my friends were my age, you know, and they were still in high school and if they had graduated earlier, you know, they got their GED, they were in no position to have an apartment with somebody, ‘cause they didn’t have a job. So I don’t know if that kind of forced us to live together or what, but I don’t know, we kind of were both just into the idea that that was what was going to happen…. Even if I’m being forced into living with somebody it wouldn’t matter, ‘cause I really like Josh and you know, I feel really comfortable and like that would be O.K.”

10. Jake, 26, computer support: “First off, it was good for her financially, it was good for me financially because, you know, and basically I was first off spending too much in gas getting to and from there and to my place. She needed a roommate [when hers moved out], you know, I, it ended up being and since I was there every night anyway there was no reason not to. I mean also it seemed to me that we were heading that way anyway and I figure we might as well move in together now, you know, because if we don’t do it now we’re going to want to in a couple of months and then she’s going to have a lease so it was, it was definitely a good decision but I would say a lot of it was just practical and financial. I mean it was, it was a good decision.”