The Skenny

 Kenny Bond is a shape-shifter. It’s a coping mechanism he developed after years of moving from Navy base to Navy base. Kenny moved every two years, changing towns, schools and friends at a moment’s notice. When Kenny finally landed in WV, in the 8th grade, he was tired of the “gotta fit in dance”. Kenny stopped shape-shifting and dove into books. As Kenny grew older he found that he needed his shape-shifting skills again as he transitioned from situation to situation. Kenny plays many characters; musician, teacher, administrator, father, bar-loving sports junkie and book fiend.

 As Kenny traveled from base to base, he developed an understanding and interest in all cultures. Kenny doesn’t have any aversion to a particular group of people. He is fascinated by groups with non-traditional beliefs and would be open to participating in just about any ethnographic study.

 Kenny’s strengths lie in his ability to interview people and remain objective. The constant moving and his experience in administration have allowed him to separate his emotions from many situations. Kenny also has a social side that allows him to communicate with all groups of people. Kenny’s one weakness is that he does not like one-on-one conversations. This will make the interview process difficult.

 Kenny’s musical experiences have shaped how he views and performs research. The improvisation and learning to play with other musicians helped Kenny develop skills that he will need to be an excellent qualitative researcher.

 Kenny feels his experiences as an administrator can be helpful in situations that re quire him to be an interviewer, listener or problem solver. Kenny does feel that if his participants find out that he is a high school principal it could make them feel uncomfortable.

 Kenny’s future research plans involve local professional learning communities. He hopes to study the feelings towards the collaboration required in order to make the PLC work effectively, and the correlation between academic achievement and those who like to collaborate versus those who do not. Like a bottle of Glennfiddich, Kenny will only get better with age.