

What is it?

The research question and methods paper provides you the opportunity to expand upon the knowledge you gained in Soc331 in forming a research question, performing empirical research using the library databases and APA styles. In addition, this paper allows you to develop knowledge around how best to employ an appropriate research method into your chosen topic.

How much is this assignment worth?

This paper is worth 250 points of your final grade.

What is this assignment about?

This paper is your opportunity to demonstrate your ability to critically think through the creation of research question and discussion regarding the methodology of your choosing. It will also provide you with the opportunity to continue to expand your knowledge about APA 6.

To successfully complete this assignment, you should include the following elements:

- You are to write a 4-5 page paper in which you create a research question based on your topic of interest, but also related to the disciplines within the behavioral sciences.
- In this paper, you are to create a research question and explain what specific type of research method you would use if you were to conduct research to answer your research question. Be sure to explain why you would choose this method and how it is better than some of the other methods for answering your question.
- In addition, you will be expected to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of your proposed research method, and use citations from the textbook. This will be the “heart” of this paper— be sure to explain this section in detail and provide specific examples. Relate the strengths and weaknesses to your topic, and how, as a researcher, you would compensate for any weaknesses.
- Explain also what ethical considerations you should keep in mind if you were to conduct research on your chosen topic. How would you make sure that you would not violate confidentiality and retain anonymity? How would you protect your subjects or participants?
- You will also be expected to briefly summarize and cite from four sources and the textbook. Two of your sources should be from the scholarly articles that you have been collecting and reading throughout this course. A good paper would “weave” in specific examples from the scholarly article into the text of your paper. Be sure to connect the scholarly article to what you have to say about your chosen research method.

How will learning to write a research methods paper help me in my future career?

In much of your professional life, you will be asked by your supervisor, clients or funders *How is the program doing or What can we do differently?* While they may be interested in what you think, they will very interested in what you know, especially if you can back up your opinion with facts, literature based theory, statistics, or logical reasoning. Anyone can have opinions—but those that really matter are ones that are well-thought out, backed up by existing

literature and developed through the deployment of rigorous research. Being able to do research into a problem or evaluate an existing program will distinguish you from those that cannot.

How do I write a good Research Proposal paper?

The best way to approach this assignment is to first create your research question and then concentrate on finding your sources so that you can see how others are researching your topic and the ethical considerations surrounding it.

Next, spend to bulk of your time discussion how you would conduct the research. A good place to start is to consider your methodology...will you employ a Quantitative or Qualitative Methodology? Then, think about your data collection methods...ie: interviews, surveys or observations. Finish up by continuing to add details about your methods.