

EVALUATING RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

The paper should be in APA style, with cover page. There is no need for an abstract. List the sources that you used in a *Reference* section at the end of the paper.

A. QUANTITATIVE STUDY

You need to read the following article for this assignment. Use the “Checklist for reading communication research reports” (uploaded on BB) to help you review the study.

Gareis, E. (2012). Intercultural friendship: Effects of home and host region. *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*, 5(4), 309-328.

Write a 4-page paper (40 points) which critically evaluates the published study based on the following criteria for ensuring sound quantitative research: (1) **validity**, which aims to measure what the investigation has set out to measure; (2) **generalizability**, whether research findings from a particular study can be generalized to other appropriate settings; (3) **reliability**, which asks whether or not findings in a particular study can be replicated; and (4) **objectivity**, whether subjective bias has been eliminated by assuring that the methods of obtaining information are empirical and allow agreement across multiple observers.

Evaluation Criteria for Quantitative Research
Validity – Is the study design clear and appropriate for addressing the research questions? Are data sources clearly identified and appropriate for addressing the research questions? Is the description of constructed variables clear and do constructed variables make sense given the outcome of interest for the research question?
Generalizability – Is the sampling design clearly defined and defensible, and sampling population relevant to the research question? Can the results of this study be generalized to other settings?
Reliability – Does data collection reflect sound and systematic methods to produce reliable data? Are the analysis methods clearly described, appropriate for the research questions, sufficiently rigorous, and correctly executed?
Objectivity – Are the events or phenomenon under study observable to allow agreement among investigators? Does data collection reflect methods that produce unbiased results? Are findings fully supported by the data and analysis?

Grading Criteria		Paper
<i>Deliverables:</i> Paper length (4 pages)	/8 points	
<i>Clarity:</i> Organized writing & persuasive reasoning to support assessment	/6 points	
<i>Completeness:</i> Covers key parts of the study and evaluates the most relevant aspects of the study/article using the 4 criteria with support	/15 points	
<i>Quality of effort:</i> Demonstrates attention to detail beyond sparse content and contextualizes the significance of the study	/6 points	
<i>APA Style:</i> Checked spelling and grammar & follows formatting convention	/5 points	
TOTAL:	/40 points	