

Article Critique Guidelines

Assignment Description:

You will select two published journal articles to critique. One article must use qualitative methodology, and one article must use quantitative methodology. Using knowledge of research concepts, you will read and evaluate the article and then write a critique of the study's research methodology. In your critiques, you must go beyond summarizing the study. You must analyze and evaluate the study's methodology. Critiques should be three to four pages long (not including title page) and should follow APA style. Please submit a PDF file of the article or a link to the article in HBU Library Databases with your critique.



Courtesy of Microsoft Office Image Gallery

Critiques will be assessed for critical thinking (analysis and evaluation of research methods used); adherence to APA style, formal register, and writing conventions; and clarity of communication. See the Grading Guidelines on the last page for details.

What to Do and How to Do It

Select a qualitative study and a quantitative study published in a reputable, scholarly educational research journal. The journal articles you choose must report research in the traditional IMRaD (Introduction, Method, Results, and Discussion) format. If you have any doubts about the suitability of your chosen articles, please discuss your choices with the professor well in advance of the submission deadlines.

For each critique assignment, you will read an article and write a three- to four-page critique of the study. In order to critique a research article, reread the article from the perspective of a researcher and evaluate the content of the research, the clarity of the writing, and the practicality of the findings from the research study. Your critique should evaluate the following aspects of the study:

Introduction	Method	Results	Discussion
• Problem/Purpose Statement • Research Questions • Literature Review	• Participants/Sampling • Instruments • Design and Procedure	• Clarity of Communication • Tables and Figures • To the extent possible: Statistics and Data Analysis	• Conclusions • Recommendations for Practice and/or Future Research

If the author does not give enough information for you to evaluate a specific aspect of the study, then state that the information provided by the author was inadequate and discuss what information the author could have included.

You also need to evaluate the study using criteria appropriate for the type of study (qualitative or quantitative) or for the specific method (e.g., survey, correlational, narrative, case study). You can find these terms in the appendix of your text book. In your text book there is a description of the various types of research and methodologies. Use the information from our textbook to help you determine if the research article meets the basic criteria for that type of study found in the article.

Address those questions in the appropriate sections of the critique. Questions related to the questionnaire in the survey should be addressed in your critique of the instrument. Questions related to the data analysis may be addressed in your critique of the design or the results.

Remember, you should critique and evaluate, not simply summarize, the article. Begin the critique with a brief summary of the article, including information about the topic, research questions, and type of study. The body of the critique paper should be a detailed evaluation of the introduction, method (including design-specific evaluation), results, and discussion sections of the article. Conclude your paper with an overall evaluation of the study, in which you discuss the weaknesses, strengths, and significance of the study.

TIP! *Make things easy on yourself. Choose articles that you are going to use as sources in the literature review project to critique for this assignment.*

Grading Guidelines	Exemplary	Proficient	Needs Improvement	Unsatisfactory
Attributes				
<u>Task Completion:</u> Student completed all required elements of the research article critique task. Selected an appropriate research article to evaluate Included a copy of the research article (or link to the article in library databases) 3–4 pp. long (double-spaced, 12-pt. font) Went beyond summary to critically evaluate the research methods used in the article	No points. If any part of the task is incomplete, then the submission will be returned to the student for correction and the 20% late penalty will be applied.			
<u>Writing Conventions:</u> The written critique: Follows conventions of grammar, spelling, capitalization, punctuation, etc. Was proofread to be as error-free as possible Is organized, clear, and coherent and uses the formal register of academic English Follows APA style for title page, formatting, in-text citations, references, etc.	10	8	7	6
<u>Introduction/Description:</u> The written critique begins with a brief, concise description or summary of the study. Summary sufficiently describes the study’s purpose, research questions, and type of study.	15	13	12	9
<u>Critical Thinking & Critique:</u> Critique is thorough and thoughtful and integrates course learning. Includes a detailed evaluation of the article’s: Introduction Method (including design-specific evaluation) Results Discussion Goes beyond summary to evaluate the appropriateness and strength of the research methods used in the study, given the type (qualitative/quantitative) and method (e.g., survey, experimental, case study) utilized.	60	51	44	36
<u>Overall Evaluation:</u> The critique offers comment on the strengths, weaknesses, and significance of the study. Comments are grounded in course learning about good practice in educational research.	15	13	12	9