

CONTENT

Your assignment must include each of the following areas, and abide by the given format:

Part A: Introduction

The introduction to a research article contains the rationale for completing the research study. Here, you will present the most relevant literature on your topic that will lead to a gap in the literature, which is where you will provide the rationale for your study. Most of the content for the introduction should come from the summary of your literature review. After describing the existing gap in the research, you will present your substantive hypothesis or your statement of the problem.

1) Introduction (1 page; at least 3 sources)

- a. Now that you have written the literature review, we are going to the very beginning of the paper, and you will write an introduction. This introduction will lead into the literature review and will follow the process described in Ch. 9 pages 168 - 173 of the textbook. The items you must include are:
 - i. A brief summary of the literature review, showing and describing a gap in the literature (specifically use the information from the critical [use at least 2 sources] and summary sections [use at least 1 source] of the literature review). You are making the case for why your research study is being conducted.
 - ii. A statement of the problem (i.e. substantive hypothesis) and what you hope to find: Please abide by the following guidelines:
 1. If you are using qualitative methods, state the research questions you will answer through the qualitative process
 2. If you are using quantitative methods, state your research questions you will answer through the qualitative process.
 3. If using a mixed methods approach, follow both 1 and 2 above.

**See p. 170 Research to Practice for examples of statement of the problem and p. 173 Research to Practice for examples of substantive hypotheses and research questions.*

Part B: Methods

The methods section of your paper tells the reader how you plan to perform your study. This section involves descriptions of study participants, instruments or measuring apparatus, and the procedures or protocol for data collection. Please pay close attention to the following assignment guidelines, as well as the textbook recommendations for helping you complete each item.

2) Methods Section (1.5 to 2 pages; citations are not required but may be appropriate in some areas)

- a. Please refer to Ch. 9, pages 174 - 179 of the textbook for assistance and examples as well as chapters 5-7 (focus on 5&6) for information about quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods designs. The key sections you must include and questions you must answer (when appropriate to your study) are:
 - i. Subjects section (pp. 174 & 175):
 1. Who are you subjects and why were they selected?
 2. What makes them appropriate for the study?
 3. Identify characteristics such as: age, sex, and education.

4. State any of the subject delimitations that you considered (this means inclusion criteria)
5. State any limitations of the study. (These are aspects of the study that are beyond your control).
6. State any incentives you plan to provide to your subjects
- ii. Measurement section (pp. 175-177 and chapters 5&6):
 1. What measurement instrument will you use?
 2. How was your questionnaire or interview developed?
 3. Describe the questionnaire or interview and what they are actually measuring or exploring. Are they standardized or did you modify existing questionnaires or interview questions to suit your study?
 - a. Please refer to pages 176&177 for more information to include about a questionnaire or interview.
 4. What equipment may be used? (e.g. camera, video, recording equipment, etc.). Describe these pieces of equipment in detail.
 5. Describe the setting in which you will interview or observe subjects and special characteristics of this setting.
- iii. Procedures section (pp. 177 & 178):
 1. Describe each step of your research project. Answer the questions “when” will you do each step of your study and “how” will you do each step? (Provide as much detail as possible).
 2. How will you obtain permission to conduct the study? We are not using informed consent forms or letters, but how will you recruit subjects to participate?
- iv. Data Analysis section (p. 179)
 1. For quantitative studies, answer the following: What is your overall research question and how will you analyze your data responses? (Refer to Ch. 5)
 2. For qualitative studies, what is your overall research question and how will you analyze your interview responses? (Refer to Ch. 6)
 3. For mixed methods, follow both 1 and 2 above. (Refer to Chapters 5&6)

3) Reference Page

- a. **A minimum of 3 total sources must be included.**
 - i. All sources must be credible and based on scientific studies (i.e. scholarly); there is information provided below about how to identify “credible” sources
 - ii. All sources must have been published between 2013-present
 - iii. Your textbook is not an appropriate source for this assignment (look in the text’s bibliography for related primary sources)
 - iv. Do NOT forget to cite your sources in-text; your reference page and in-text citations must match

Formatting, etc.

- Font, Spacing, etc.: Content of the paper must adhere to the following specifications:
 - Times New Roman font
 - 12-point

- Double-spaced
- 1" margins on all four sides
- Length: Content must be a minimum of 2.5 pages in length, not to exceed 3 pages (note that the title and reference pages are not counted toward this length).
- Submission: The correct document must be typed and *properly submitted* as an attachment to the correct assignment folder in Blackboard by the deadline listed above by each student
- About APA Style and Scholarly References:
 - **DO NOT PLAGIARIZE! This includes, but is not limited to, copying/pasting word-for-word (or nearly word-for-word), citing a direct quote without quotations, including a reference page without in-text citations, and more. WHEN IN DOUBT, ASK!**
 - Please note that you will receive a zero on this, and any other assignment, if blatant plagiarism is found.
 - Remember to cite every fact, figure, and piece of information. For APA style visit the link below and pay attention to the left-side menu (how to correctly cite in-text; formatting a reference page, etc.) at this site: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>
 - Some helpful information about finding **credible**, scholarly references include: <http://libguides.indstate.edu/content.php?pid=175498&sid=3038787>.
 - Information about credible journal articles: <http://lib.colostate.edu/howto/evaljrl2.html>
 - Also, Chapter 4 of our textbook provides very helpful information on scientific writing (e.g. grammar, diction, punctuation, and APA style).

Grading Rubric

Your assignment will be evaluated per the following six areas. See below for guidelines regarding what an 'A' paper, 'B' paper, etc. would look like.

1. Addressing questions/content - 8 points possible
2. Thoroughness and quality of content - 8 points possible
3. Correct Writing - 4 points possible
4. Use of resources - 6 points possible
5. Adherence to formatting guidelines, etc. - 4 points possible

A range:

- Addressed every question/content area provided in the content guidelines
- Addressed questions/content areas thoroughly, and with well-supported empirical data from credible sources
- Content areas are well-written (clear, appropriate sentence structure, logical flow, etc.), using correct grammar and spelling

- Used resources and citations appropriately, and adhered correctly to APA style
- Followed formatting and assignment guidelines flawlessly (or nearly flawlessly)

B range:

- Addressed almost all questions/content areas provided in the content guidelines (may have missed 1-2 small areas)
- Addressed questions/content areas somewhat thoroughly, and with well-supported data from mostly credible sources
- Content areas are mostly well-written (fairly clear, appropriate sentence structure, logical flow, etc.), using mostly correct grammar and spelling (some errors)
- Used most resources and citations appropriately, and adhered correctly to APA style most of the time
- Followed formatting and assignment guidelines flawlessly (or nearly flawlessly)

C range:

- Addressed few of the questions/content areas provided in the content guidelines
- Addressed questions/content areas inadequately, and with thin data
- Content areas are not well-written (somewhat unclear, imbalanced sentence structure, confusing flow, etc.), using incorrect grammar and spelling in several areas
- Resources and citations were not always appropriately used, and failed to adhere correctly to APA style in some areas
- Did not follow formatting and assignment guidelines in a few areas

D range:

- Addressed few of the questions/content areas provided in the content guidelines
- Addressed questions/content areas extremely inadequately, and with thin data
- Content areas are poorly written (unclear, incorrect sentence structure, no logical flow, etc.), using incorrect grammar and spelling in many or most areas
- Resources and citations were inappropriately used, and failed to adhere correctly to APA style in many areas
- Did not follow formatting and assignment guidelines in a many areas

Failing:

- Any combination of one or more of the following (this is not an exhaustive list):
- Content and formatting guidelines completely disregarded
- No (or almost no) references/citations provided

- Large areas of assignment not completed or provided
- Not turned in by the deadline (50% reduction within 24-hours of deadline or zero points after 24 hours)

Credible Sources for Academic Writing

Many sources, particularly online, are not appropriate for academic writing. Use the following criteria to evaluate the credibility and appropriateness of the sources you are planning to use. Do not use sources that do not meet these criteria.

1. *Authorship and Credentials:* What person or group wrote the content and what are their credentials? If you can't immediately determine who the author is and what their credentials are, then don't use it. Keep in mind, the author could be a group or organization. Go to the home page or the "About Us" page and look for this information.
2. *Dates:* When was the content written or last updated? There should be a date on the page, usually at the bottom, telling you when the content was last reviewed or updated. This is usually not the copyright date. Sometimes this date might be on the home page in a note stating when the entire site was last reviewed. If you can't find the date, don't use the source because you don't know exactly how old it is or if anyone is bothering to keep it current. If you are using the source for statistics, it should not be older than five years. Otherwise, generally use sources that are not older than ten years.
3. *Documentation:* Is the content referenced? Were citations used? Evaluate where the author got the information used to write the content on the site. If they don't tell you or you don't see a reference list, avoid using the site as your source unless you know the credentials of the author. For example, the CDC and NIH don't always provide a reference list on every page, but usually this information is linked. Sometimes you may find a site that does not meet all the criteria, but the site provides a bibliography. Instead of using the site, go to the primary sources listed in the bibliography and use those. This way, you're getting the information first-hand instead of a re-hashed interpretation from a third or fourth party.
4. *Sponsorship:* Who is sponsoring (paying for) the site? Do not use commercial (.com) sites since their main purpose is to sell or advertise something and you don't know how or if this impacts the content.

Do not use Wikipedia. Do not use .com (commercial) sites. As a general rule, stick with sites that end in .edu or .gov