



NUR635: Nursing Research

APPENDIX

Individual In-class Examination (testing protocol):

All quizzes and exams will have a specific time allocated (see test instructions). Anything beyond this time frame will not be considered for grading, unless you have received approval for special accommodations by the Student Disability Services. If you are eligible for accommodations, you must provide your accommodations letter to the instructor at the beginning of the semester and no later than the first week of class. If the exam is online and you have technical difficulties, please inform the faculty member immediately by email, as well as the help desk for this to be a documented reason for not continuing with an exam. Failure to carry out any of the above will result in a grade of zero.

Individual Assignment: Quantitative Research Article Critique

For published articles, we cannot simply assume that the published findings are reliable and valid. In order to use the evidence generated from research effectively, we must appraise its quality to determine if we can have confidence in the findings. This assignment aims to train you to evaluate the quality of quantitative research articles.

Suggested steps to follow:

1. Briefly review the articles provided on BB under formal quantitative critique. Choose **only one** article for your critique. If you wish to critique another article not listed on the BB, email the instructor the article and ask for the approval before you start critiquing.
2. Go to the BB and indicate which article you will critique by sending an email to the instructor.
3. Compose your paper: 6-8 pages (excluding the cover and reference pages). APA format (double-spaced, 12-font Times Roman).
4. On the cover page, write the title of the chosen research article and your name. Focus on critiquing to determine the research quality.
5. Use the Quantitative Research Critique Guidelines (posted in BB) to generate your critical thinking and form your writing. The guidelines are adapted from Polit & Beck (2017). Box 5.2 Guide to an Overall Critique of a Quantitative Research. Refer to the textbook for “detailed critiquing guidelines” if you need more details in each section.
6. The critique should address the items included in the guide. Do not simply answer the “critiquing questions” as “yes” or “no”. Provide brief explanation or reasons.



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- a. Do not answer the critique questions using sentence fragments or outline format, rather, write this critique in paragraph format. Please re-read and spellcheck your paper before submission.
7. The Research Article Critique should include:
 - Pertinent information about the study.
 - Positive AND negative statements about the use of the scientific method.
 - Positive AND negative statements about NURSING and the research.
8. In the summary assessment section of your paper:
 - i. Determine whether or not the study provided sufficient evidence for future research or clinical practice.
 - ii. If the study is rigorous, discuss how you would apply the evidence to your current practice, future role option, or future research.
9. Submit the paper via safe assign in BB.
 - i. Do not include the cover page and reference pages on your safe assign paper.
 - ii. Use quotation sparingly. Usually, no more than one quote for a 6-8 page- paper.
 - iii. Any paper with more than 20% of the originality report must be revised.
10. Submit your finalized critique paper through the link in BB.

Grading Rubric for Quantitative Article Critique

Aspect of the Report	Critiquing Questions	Detailed Critiquing Guidelines	Points Possible	Comments
Title	➤ Is the title a good one, succinctly suggesting key variables and the study population?		2	
Abstract	➤ Does the abstract clearly and concisely summarize the main features of the report (problem, methods, results, conclusions)?		2	
Introduction Statement of the problem	➤ Is the problem stated unambiguously, and is it easy to identify? ➤ Does the problem statement build a cogent, persuasive argument for the new study? ➤ Does the problem have significance for nursing? ➤ Is there a good match between the research problem and the paradigm and methods used? Is a quantitative approach appropriate?	Box 4.3, page 90	2	
Hypotheses or research questions	➤ Are research questions and/or hypotheses explicitly stated? If not, is their absence justified? ➤ Are questions and hypotheses appropriately worded, with clear specification of key variables and the study population? ➤ Are the questions/hypotheses consistent with the literature review and the conceptual framework?	Box 4.3, page 90	2	
Literature review	➤ Is the literature review up to date and based mainly on primary sources?	Box 5.4, page 122	4	



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	➤ Does the review provide a state-of-the-art synthesis of evidence on the problem? ➤ Does the literature review provide a sound basis for the new study?			
Conceptual/theoretical framework	➤ Are key concepts adequately defined conceptually? ➤ Is there a conceptual/theoretical framework, rationale, and/or map, and (if so) is it appropriate? If not, is the absence of one justified?	Box 6.3, page 145		
Method Protection of human rights	➤ Were appropriate procedures used to safeguard the rights of study participants? Was the study externally reviewed by an IRB/ethics review board? ➤ Was the study designed to minimize risks and maximize benefits to participants?	Box 7.3, page 170	2	
Research design	➤ Was the most rigorous possible design used, given the study purpose? ➤ Were appropriate comparisons made to enhance interpretability of the findings? ➤ Was the number of data collection points appropriate? ➤ Did the design minimize biases and threats to the internal, construct, and external validity of the study (e.g., was blinding used, was attrition minimized)?	Box 9.1, page 230; Box 10.1, page 254		
Population and sample	➤ Is the population described? Is the sample described in sufficient detail? ➤ Was the best possible sampling design used to enhance the sample's representativeness? Were sampling biases minimized? ➤ Was the sample size adequate? Was a power analysis used to estimate sample size needs?	Box 12.1, page 289	2	
Data collection and measurement	➤ Are the operational and conceptual definitions congruent? ➤ Were key variables operationalized using the best possible method (e.g., interviews, observations, and so on) and with adequate justification? ➤ Are specific instruments adequately described and were they good choices, given the study purpose, variables being studied, and the study population? ➤ Does the report provide evidence that the data collection methods yielded data that were reliable and valid?	Box 13.1, page 309; Box 14.1, page 347	2	
Procedures	➤ If there was an intervention, is it adequately described, and was it rigorously developed and implemented? Did most participants allocated to the intervention group actually receive it? Is there evidence of intervention fidelity? ➤ Were data collected in a manner that minimized bias? Were the staff who collected data appropriately trained?	Box 9.1, page 230; Box 10.1, page 254	2	
Results Data analysis	➤ Were analyses undertaken to address each research question or test each hypothesis? ➤ Were appropriate statistical methods used, given the level of measurement of the variables, number of groups being compared, and assumptions of the tests? ➤ Was the most powerful analytic method used (e.g., did the analysis help to control for confounding variables)? ➤ Were Type I and Type II errors avoided or minimized? ➤ In intervention studies, was an intention-to-treat analysis performed? ➤ Were problems of missing values evaluated and adequately addressed?	Box 16.1, page 400; Box 17.1, page 429	2	



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Findings	➤ Is information about statistical significance presented? Is information about effect size and precision of estimates (confidence intervals) presented? ➤ Are the findings adequately summarized, with good use of tables and figures? ➤ Are findings reported in a manner that facilitates a meta-analysis, and with sufficient information needed for EBP?	Box 17.1, page 429; Box 28.1, page 687	4	
Discussion Interpretation of the findings	➤ Are all major findings interpreted and discussed within the context of prior research and/or the study's conceptual framework? ➤ Are causal inferences, if any, justified? ➤ Are interpretations well-founded and consistent with the study's limitations? ➤ Does the report address the issue of the generalizability of the findings?	Box 19.1, page 482	4	
Implications/ recommendations	➤ Do the researchers discuss the implications of the study for clinical practice or further research—and are those implications reasonable and complete?	Box 19.1, page 482	2	
Global Issues Presentation	➤ Is the report well-written, organized, and sufficiently detailed for critical analysis? ➤ In intervention studies, is a CONSORT flow chart provided to show the flow of participants in the study? ➤ Is the report written in a manner that makes the findings accessible to practicing nurses?	Box 28.2, page 698	2	
Researcher credibility	➤ Do the researchers' clinical, substantive, or methodologic qualifications and experience enhance confidence in the findings and their interpretation?		2	
Summary assessment	➤ Despite any limitations, do the study findings appear to be valid—do you have confidence in the <i>truth</i> value of the results? ➤ Does the study contribute any meaningful evidence that can be used in nursing practice or that is useful to the nursing discipline?		4	
Overall critique format			2	
Spelling/Grammar			2	

Total

44