**Assignment 3: How to Read a Research Report**

**Parts 1 (Sampling) and 2 (Data Analysis & Results)**

**Instructions (same as Assignment 2)**

Use the same article you selected for Assignment 2.

***Answer the questions in your own words****.*

***Be brief and respect the word limits.***

***Make a single-spaced Word document that includes my questions with your responses.***

You will **post this document twice**, after you complete Part 1 and after you complete Part 2.

**Title the document** like this: YourLastName\_Assignment\_3

**Components**

1. Your full name
2. Full citation for the article

**Part 1: Sampling**

1. Define the theoretical population(s). If there are comparison groups (men versus women, people in place A versus place B, voters vs. non-voters), define the theoretical population for each group. (75 words)
2. List and describe the accessible population(s). (75 words)
3. Is there a sampling frame – literally a list of the people in the accessible population(s)? If yes, who developed the list? (75 words)
4. Did the author(s) use additional screening criteria in selecting the sample – e.g., attributes other than those in the definition of the theoretical population(s)? If so, list the criteria used. (100 words)
5. What is the size of the sample? If there are comparison groups, give this information for each group. (50 words)
6. How was sample size determined? If there are multiple samples, give this information for each sample. (50 words)
7. Name the specific type of sample taken (e.g., systematic random sample, volunteer sample, respondent driven referral sample, etc.). If a purposive sample was taken, name the specific type of purposive sample – e.g., maximum variation purposive sample. (50 words)
8. What was the response rate? If the author does not report it, say so. (50 words)
9. Were replacement procedures used? Describe the procedures. (125 words)

**Part 2: Data Analysis**

1. List (by name or a phrase) each variable discussed in the study. (You may have to look at the list of variables used in statistical tests or derived in qualitative analysis). For each variable named, provide the following information. (No word limit, but please be brief.)
2. Define or describe the variable in your own words – a simple phrase or one short sentence is sufficient
3. Indicate whether the variable is an outcome (dependent) variable, a predictor (independent) variable, or a purely descriptive variable (usually demographics)
4. Name the construct in the theory used in the study that each variable represents (for example, “willingness to wear a mask” might be a variable representing the construct “social norm” in value, belief, norm theory
5. Indicate the level of measurement for the variable (nominal, ordinal, interval)

**Answer question 11 only if the article reports results of statistical tests.**

**Make a NUMBERED LIST of the statistical hypotheses.** There may be many of them.

* 1. If an article uses any statistical test, you ***must state the underlying statistical hypotheses in your own words, even if the authors do not state them explicitly.*** Statistical tests ***always test some hypothesis,*** but the authors may not state all hypotheses clearly in the text.
  2. For each hypothesis, indicate the statistical test used to test the hypothesis (e.g., paired t-test)
  3. List the result of the test (significant or not) and if provided, the significance level achieved (like 0.04 – significant or 0.23 – not significant)
  4. Briefly state the result in your own terms, like this: Willingness to wear a mask was correlated positively with the variable concern for others at a significance level of 0.03.

**Answer questions 12 and 13 only if the article includes qualitative data analysis**

1. **Describe** the nature of the data collected (for example open response questions, output of focus groups, observed behaviors). (125 words)
2. How the data were analyzed in your own words (125 words)
3. What were the key results? (125 words)
4. Regardless of the type of data analysis used, did the results justify (support) the conclusions that you identified in Assignment 2? Why or why not?