

Sharing Materials

The purpose of sharing materials. There are many materials that are useful in this course, most of which are not in the materials assigned to you. There are two purposes to sharing materials. One is for you to be able to quickly identify materials that your colleagues share that are of interest to you -- and vice versa, for them to be able to do the same when you share materials. This is to reduce the need for all of you to continually have to conduct extensive literature searches. Share the effort. The second purpose is to enlarge the pool of materials readily available to you during the class beyond those that I select. I find that what seems very good and useful to me may not be so useful to students. The general Sharing Materials discussion board is the place for you to put the materials that *you* find interesting and helpful.

When to share materials. Your specific class preparation some weeks will require that you post a document on Canvas that I assign – these will be posted under a Canvas Discussion Board for the specific week. You can also share materials on Canvas at any time on the “Sharing Materials” discussion board and you will receive extra credit for this as described in the course syllabus. You can include academic quality video materials in shared materials.

What to emphasize. This is a class about research design. Your comments when you share materials must focus on research design considerations. Do **not focus on the topic or results of the research**. Focus on what you learned about research design.

Components and length of the shared document. Submit all documents in Word. Always provide the complete reference for the material you discuss in APA style. Include three components only: your name, a list of key issues or topics **of relevance to research design** in the article, a brief discussion of **key points about research design that you got from the material**.

The list of key issues should be literally a list of key words or phrases that will let someone quickly identify the basic content of interest in the material from a research design perspective.

The key points can be in the form of bullet points or short paragraphs. Remember that your objective here is to allow your colleagues to know a lot about the article very quickly. Do **not** repeat what is in the abstract. The article abstracts are likely to focus on the topic and results of the research. That is not our focus in this class. Think of this as a synopsis of what you learned about research design from the material. If you read something and think it is **not a good source of information about research design, say so**. That keeps others from wasting time looking at the material.

In no case should this document be more than two pages long, and then only in the case of a truly exceptional material that has many key lessons to be learned. In general, these should be about one page long.

How I grade these submissions. Do not be deceived by the short length. It is **hard** to distill something down from a 12 page research article to a one page summary of lessons learned. I will assess your required submissions and the number of extra credit points awarded for voluntary submissions on how well you distilled what was in the material. To be blunt, you will not automatically get full credit for every submission. I will use a three category system – poor, adequate, and good – and award points accordingly.