Research Methods Reviews
Required: 3 reviews, 25 possible points each, 75 points total
Extra Credit: up to 2 additional reviews, 25 possible points each, 50 points total

Objective: Facilitate your exploration and use of the research methods literature and expand your knowledge beyond the required readings

Purpose. You must demonstrate that you have explored the literature (beyond required readings). This is an important component in my assessment of your performance on assignments (significant points). I know that the time you have to explore the research methods literature is limited. I want to make it easier and faster for you to use the literature by sharing these reviews with each other. The reviews posted on Canvas will constitute a reference library that will make your use of the research methods literature much more efficient. The reviews will give you basic information about the contributions of the material from a research methods perspective. The reviews allow you to quickly select materials that are relevant for your specific assignment. On three occasions I will assign a reading for you to review. This only works if (1) you write good reviews for your colleagues and (2) you read their reviews. If you do this, you will eliminate hours of searching for literature to complete the assignments. The materials you and others review, including the required research reviews, meet the requirement to use research methods literature in the assignments. The reviews will summarize key concepts about research methods, sometimes concepts that apply generally to all instruments and sometimes concepts that are particularly important for a specific method of data collection.

The Submissions. You will complete three assigned reviews for 75 possible points (25 points per review). I will provide a list of the articles assigned to each person for each required submission on the Canvas discussion boards for the weeks when these reviews are due. Post the review prior to class on the due date. There is an individual Discussion Board for each week in which research reviews are assigned. Make sure you post your review to the correct week so that your colleagues can find it easily. The full references for the reviews will be available at the course website for the week. Title the submission with your last name, a very brief phrase that describes the research method topic of interest in the material, and the last name of the first author or producer of the materials (e.g., Swisher_Weighting_Items_Jones). For assigned reviews, you will make a 3 to 5-minute presentation based on a single power point slide posted with the full review. This slide should contain (1) three key concepts or ideas about research methods you gleaned from the article and (2) two examples of how these concepts build upon, extend, or contrast with key concepts in the assigned readings for the week.

You may submit up to two additional reviews on the Canvas discussion board entitled “Sharing Materials - Voluntary.” You can receive up to 25 points for an additional (volunteered) review and may submit a maximum of two reviews for credit. You may also submit reviews of other materials like Ted Talks or You Tube videos (high quality materials only please).

Objectives of the Review. Your objective is to provide your colleagues with a clear, concise description of the major points that you discovered about research methods. I selected the articles because they provide insights about things like novel uses of the data collection method, ways of combining methods to enhance the overall reliability, precision and validity of the data collection process, or perhaps comparisons of the kind of data produced by different data collection methods. If an article deals with a specific study (example of the use) of a method, focus on what you learned about the research method, not the results of the study itself. For example, one article is a study that reports how data about dietary habits were
collected using two methods of data collection, a questionnaire and direct observation. We are not interested in the results of the study with regard to the respondents’ dietary habits. We want to focus on what we can learn about the strengths and weaknesses of the two methods of data collection. See the “Research Methods Review Example” at the website. The maximum length for the review is two pages – shorter is better. I will NOT return comments to you about Research Methods Reviews.

Required Components in the Review

1. **Your name**
2. **Full citation** for the material in APA style
3. **Key words.** List your own **FIVE to SEVEN key words** based on the key ideas in the material from the perspective of research methods. In articles, the author's key words probably focus on the topic of the study rather than the methodological issues. Therefore, you will probably not be able to use the author’s key words.
4. **Key Points.** List the **three to five main ideas, concepts or suggestions** in the materials. State and explain the key points about research methods you learned. These can be brief, but they should be specific and explain the points. This is not a list of topics, but rather a succinct explanation of what you learned. See the “Example of Research Methods Review.”
5. **Relationship to Assigned Readings.** Provide a **brief explanation** of how the material or concepts covered in the article builds upon, contrasts with and/or extends the material covered in the assigned readings for the week and more generally the materials we have covered in the course.

Assessment Criteria

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<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Key words are useful in helping other students identify the relevant research methods content of the article</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listed and explained the key conclusions or concepts in the article from a research methods perspective</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provides clear and accurate explanations of how the key conclusions or concepts in the article expand upon, contrast with, or add to the concepts in the assigned readings for the week</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>25</td>
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