

Research Methods Reviews

Required: 3 reviews, 50 possible points each, 150 points total

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

Purpose. 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 reported *from a research methods perspective*. The reviews allow you to quickly select materials that are relevant for a specific project. 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.

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.

The Submissions. You will complete **three assigned reviews for 150 possible points (50 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. You will make a 5 minute (maximum) presentation of the key points in your review during class on the appointed dates for Reviews 1, 2 and 3. Make sure you post your review to the correct week so that your colleagues can find it easily.

Research Review 1: Post to the Week 9 and 10 discussion board – research reviews about interviews and focus groups. Those assigned articles for Week 9 need to post before class on March 8. Those assigned articles for Week 10 need to post before class on March 15.

Research Review 2: Post to Week 12 before class. These research reviews about various techniques to enhance the participant research experience and strengthen your research. I will assign reviews, but you can trade with another colleague if someone wants to trade with you.

Research Review 3: Post to the Week 13 and 14 discussion board. These reviews deal with five methods. Post prior to the date for your presentation – April 05 (meta-analyses, systematic reviews, scientometric analyses) or April 12 (domain analysis, and network analysis).

What to submit: 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*).

Required Components in the Review – Use the Headings Listed Here

1. **Your name**
2. **Full citation** for the material in APA style (note that you use the journal citation format, not the “retrieved from” format. The retrieved from format is used for electronic materials that are not in a permanent version – items that will change over time (be revised, for example), simply disappear over time, etc.
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. Do not try to use the author’s key works because they will often focus on the topic of the study rather than the methodological issues. Make your own key words that focus on what is important in this course.
4. **Key Points.** List the **three to five main methodological ideas, concepts or suggestions** in the material. State and explain the **key points about research methods** you learned. These can be brief, but they should be specific and **explain** the points. **Identify the points clearly with headings that read Point 1, Point 2, etc.** This is not a list of topics. It is a succinct statement of the concepts in the article that are relevant to data collection.
5. **Similarities.** Explain the similarities between the key points in the article you read and the assigned readings for the week. **Make a list of bullet points.**
6. **Differences.** Explain the differences between the key points in the article you read and the assigned readings for the week. **Make a list of bullet points.**
7. **Extensions.** Explain how the key points in the article extend or build upon what you have learned about research methods in this class. **Make a list of bullet points.**
8. **References.** This includes the materials you cite for similarities, differences and extensions.

Assessment Criteria

Criteria	Possible Points
Key words are useful in helping other students identify the relevant research methods content of the article	10
Listed and explained the key conclusions or concepts in the article from a research methods perspective	20
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	20
Total	50