

## Research Methods Reviews

**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. Three research methods reviews will be required in the course. You may complete an additional two voluntary reviews at any time. All research methods reviews are valued at 50 points for a well-written review.

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*). You will make a **3 to 5-minute presentation in class, based on your review.**

### 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. **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.**
6. **References.** This includes any materials other than the article you analyzed that you cite in your review. This might be an article that provides a novel use of the technique or an article that is critical of the technique – articles that enhance our understanding of the technique. These are often articles that you cite in response to Q5 – the 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 concepts in the article from a <b>research methods</b> perspective	20
Provides clear and accurate explanations of how the key concepts in the article expand upon, contrast with, or add to the concepts in the assigned readings for the week	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>