

Rules for Ideal Study

Research Problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significance of the problem noted • Clarification of aim of study • Practicality of the study • Clarity, significance and documentation
Review of the Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of the literature • Progression toward study question through previous research reports • Rationale and direction for the study presented
Study Conceptual Framework/Theory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear link between conceptual framework/theory and research question/purpose. • Any maps/models logically presented.
Research questions or hypothesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressed appropriately and clearly • Logically related to the research purpose/aim and framework/theory
Variable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concepts identified within the framework/theory identified • Variable operationally defined • Conceptual definition consistent with operational definition of each variable
Research Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design appears appropriate • Clearly defined protocol for conducting research project evident • Any treatment closely scrutinized to guarantee consistency • Threats to internal validity minimized • Logically connected to sampling method and statistics used.
Sampling Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sampling method appropriate to result in representative sample • Biases identified • Human rights protected • Setting described and appropriate for target population
Measurements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instruments sufficient for measuring the study variables • Instrument validity and reliability levels checked • Instruments scoring techniques clearly described
Data Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Techniques for using observation clearly described • Methods for recording measures clearly described • Interrater reliability described when appropriate • Process clearly, consistently, and ethically described
Data Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedures suitable to the type of data collected • Analysis procedures clearly portrayed • Outcomes offered in a comprehensible way

Modified from: reading and Critiquing Research (2005)

Literature Critique Worksheet

Topics/Questions	Discussion
Title of the Study:	
Author credentials:	
In your own words, state the purpose of the study:	
Identify literature written about the problem:	
State the theory/framework, concepts, and the relationship to nursing:	
State the research question or hypothesis:	
List the dependent and independent variables:	
State all definitions:	
List the tools with their validity information:	
Describe the sample:	
Describe the ethics of the study, i.e. IRB:	
State the data collection procedures:	
Discuss the data analysis:	
Discuss results, recommendations, and implications for your practice:	