

Method Section Critical Analysis Assignment Instructions

Points: 90

Overview:

This assignment will focus on the importance of a method section and the key components that should be included. It is recommended that you choose an article to review that is related to the topic that you have chosen to write your research proposal on. This assignment should help you to critically evaluate the key components of a methods section so that you will have a framework for writing your own method section in your research proposal.

Instructions:

Locate a scholarly research article that has a Method section. This should be a primary (original) research study in which a Method section including Participants, Materials/Measures, and Procedures are well elaborated. The titles of each sub-section may vary depending on the article, but similar content should be contained within. Then you will write a 1-2 page (single-spaced) critical analysis that address the following components of the method section and upload to the assignment file. You will also upload the journal article that you are using for this assignment to the assignment file. Note that not all components below are addressed in every article. This is largely dependent on the type of study that is being conducted.

Components of the Method Section:

- **Participants Section**
 - Where there eligibility requirements for participants? Restrictions? Discuss these.
 - How are participants recruited?
 - What were the sampling methods for obtaining participants?
 - Discuss the demographics of the sample (age, sex, ethnicity, other characteristics relevant to the study)
 - Was informed consent included?
 - Were incentives offered to participants?
- **Materials/Measure Section**
 - How were behaviors operationalized?
 - Were questionnaires or surveys used? Scales/Indices? Discuss
 - Discuss any other stimuli used (ex: word lists)
- **Procedures**
 - Discuss the research design used (Observation, Survey, Experimental, Repeated measures, etc.)
 - How were subject assigned? (Example: Random, matched, etc)
 - Describe procedure
 - Describe experimental vs. control groups
 - What instructions were given to subjects?
 - What was the setting of the study? The duration?
 - How were apparatus and measures used?
 - How was data collected and analyzed?

Be sure to read the criteria by which your work will be evaluated before you write and again after you write.

Evaluation Rubric for *The Method* Section Critical Analysis Assignment

Criteria	Deficient	Development Needed	Satisfactory	Proficient
Participant Components of a Method Section	0-6 Points Components are minimally or not addressed.	7-12 Points Components are somewhat addressed.	14-19 Points Components are fairly well addressed.	20-22 Points Components are thoroughly addressed.
Materials/Measures of a Method Section	0-6 Points Components are minimally or not addressed.	7-12 Points Components are somewhat addressed.	14-19 Points Components are fairly well addressed.	20-22 Points Components are thoroughly addressed.
Procedure Components of a Method Section	0-6 Points Components are minimally or not addressed.	7-12 Points Components are somewhat addressed.	14-19 Points Components are fairly well addressed.	20-22 Points Components are thoroughly addressed.
Article Included and Reference Citation in APA Formatting	0-11 Points Article citation was not present, and/or APA style formatting has significant errors.	12-15 Points Article citation was included and has some issues with APA style formatting.	16-17 Points Article citation was included, but has minor errors in APA style formatting.	18-19 Points Article citation was included and correctly formatted in APA style.
Grammatical and Scholarly presentation	0-4 Points Multiple errors that impede readability	5-9 Points Multiple errors	10-14 Points A few grammatical errors that do not impede readability.	15 Points No errors.