**Assignment: Research Article Critique Paper 20% of final mark**

Formatting: Academic essay using APA format and rubric instructions

Requirements: 12pt font, No more than 7 pages, EXCLUDING title page and references

Choose an article for critique, either qualitative or quantitative to critique. The article you choose must be a different methodology than the articles you reviewed for your journal club activities. For example, if you reviewed quantitative articles for your journal club, you must critique a qualitative article for this assignment. If you reviewed qualitative articles for your journal club, you must critique a quantitative article for this assignment. Submit the article chosen for approval by March 12, 2021, at the latest. Article must be a single, method nursing research study, preferably related to your clinical practice this term.

Paper Format Recommendations

Begin with overall summary of the study (1 paragraph/half a page)

Aim to have 1 paragraph/half a page per topic outlined in the critiquing guidelines. Some sections will be longer or shorter, depending on the amount of critique required.

Limit your references

You must reference the article you are critiquing

End with a brief summary of major strengths & weaknesses of the study (1 paragraph/half a page)

**Guide to Critique of QUALITATIVE Studies**

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| Introduction  Problem statement and purpose | 1. Is the phenomenon of interest clearly described? 2. Is the problem stated unambiguously and is it easy to identify? 3. Does the problem have significance for nursing? 4. Is there a good match between the research problem, the paradigm and qualitative approach used? |
| Review of the Literature and Theoretical Framework | 1. What concepts are included in the review? 2. Does the literature review make explicit the phenomena of interest within a theoretical/conceptual framework and does it summarize the existing body of knowledge? 3. What gaps or conflicts in knowledge about the problem are identified? 4. Does the literature review lay a solid basis for the new study? 5. Are the references cited by the author mostly primary or secondary sources? Is the literature cited current? |
| Research Questions | 1. What research questions are stated in the study? Are they appropriately stated? 2. Are the questions consistent with the study’s philosophical basis, underlying tradition, conceptual framework, or ideological orientation? |
| Population & Sample | 1. Was the group or population of interest adequately described? Were the setting and the sample described in sufficient detail? 2. What type of sampling method was used in the study? Was recruitment to the study appropriate to the design? 3. Was the best possible method of sampling used to enhance information richness and address the needs of the study? 4. Was the sample size appropriate? Was saturation achieved? |
| Research design | 1. What type of design is used in the study? Is the identified research tradition (if any) congruent with the methods used to collect and analyze data? 2. Was adequate amount of time spent in the field or with study participants? 3. Was there evidence of reflexivity in the design? 4. Was there an adequate number of contacts with study participants? |
| Research approach Data Collection | 1. Were the methods of gathering data appropriate? 2. Did the researchers ask the right questions or make the right observations, and were they recorded in an appropriate fashion? 3. Was a sufficient amount of data gathered? Was the data of sufficient depth and richness? |
| Procedures | 1. Were data collection and recording procedures adequately described? 2. Were data collected in a manner that minimized bias or behavioural distortions? 3. Were data collection staff appropriately trained? 4. How have the rights of subjects been protected? |
| Enhancement of Rigor | 1. Were methods used to enhance the trustworthiness of the data, and was description of those methods adequate? 2. Were methods to enhance credibility appropriate and sufficient? 3. Is there an audit trail? |
| Analysis of data  Findings | 1. Was coding and data analysis methods sufficient described? 2. Was the data analysis strategy compatible with the research tradition and with the nature of the data gathered? 3. Did the analysis yield and an appropriate theory, taxonomy, thematic pattern, etc.? 4. Did the analytic procedures suggest the possibility of biases? 5. Were the findings effectively summarized, with good use of excerpts? 6. Doe the themes adequately capture the meaning of the data? 7. Did the analysis yield an insightful, provocative and meaningful picture of the phenomenon under investigation? |
| Theoretical integration | 1. Are the themes or patterns logically connected to each other? 2. Were figures, maps or models used effectively to summarize conceptualizations? 3. If a conceptual framework or ideological orientation guided the study, are the themes or patterns linked in a cogent manner? |
| Discussion  Implications & recommendations | 1. Are the findings interpreted within an appropriate social or cultural context? 2. Are major findings interpreted and discussed within the context of previous studies? 3. Are limitations discussed? 4. Does the report address the issue of the transferability of the findings? 5. Does the report address the implications of the study for clinical practice or further inquiry - and are these implications reasonable? |
| Application and utilization for nursing practice | 1. Does the study appear to be trustworthy? 2. Does the study contribute any meaningful evidence that can be used in nursing practice or that is useful to the nursing discipline? |

# Guide to Evaluation of QUANTITATIVE Studies

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| Problem statement and purpose | 1. What is the problem and/or purpose of the research study? Is it appropriately stated? 2. Does the problem or purpose statement express a relationship between two or more variables? If so, what is the relationship? Are they testable? 3. Does the problem statement and/or purpose specify the nature of the population being studies? What is it? 4. What significance of the problem has been identified, if any, by the investigator? |
| Review of the Literature and Theoretical Framework | 1. What concepts are included in the review? Of particular importance, note those concepts that form the independent and dependent variables and how they are conceptually defined. 2. Does the literature review make explicit the relationship between variables or place the variables within a theoretical/conceptual framework? What are the relationships? 3. What gaps or conflicts in knowledge about the problem are identified? How does this study intend to fill those gaps or resolve those conflicts? 4. Are the references cited by the author mostly primary or secondary sources? Is the literature cited current? 5. What are the operational definitions of the independent and dependent variables? Do they reflect the conceptual definitions? |
| Hypotheses or Research Questions | 1. What hypothesis(es) or research questions are stated in the study? Are they appropriately stated? 2. If hypotheses are stated, is the form of the statement statistical (null) or research? 3. What is the direction of the relationship in each hypothesis, if indicated? 4. Are the hypotheses testable? |
| Population & Sample | 1. How was the sample selected? 2. What type of sampling method was used in the study? Is it appropriate to the design? 3. To what population may the findings be generalized? What are the limits in generalization? 4. Does the sample reflect the population as identified in the problem statement? 5. Is the sample size appropriate? How is it substantiated? |
| Research design | 1. What type of design is used in the study? 2. What is the rationale for the design classification? 3. Does the design flow from the proposed problem statement, literature review, and hypothesis? |
| Internal & External Validity | 1. Discuss each of the threats to the internal validity of the study. 2. Does the design have controls at an acceptable level for threats to internal validity? 3. What are the limits to generalizability in terms of external validity? |
| Research approach  Instruments | 1. What type of data collection methods are used in the study? 2. Are the data collection procedures similar for all subjects? 3. How have the rights of subjects been protected? 4. What implications are given that informed consent of the subjects has been ensured? 5. Physiological measurement    * Is rationale given for why a particular instrument was selected? If so what is it?    * What provision is made for maintaining the accuracy of the instrument and its use, if any? |
| Reliability & Validity | 1. What type of reliability is reported for each instrument? 2. What level of reliability is reported? Is it acceptable? 3. What type of validity is reported for each instrument? 4. Does the validity of each instrument seem adequate? Why? |
| Analysis of data | 1. What level of measurement is used to measure each of the major variables? 2. What descriptive or inferential statistics are reported? 3. Were these descriptive or inferential statistic appropriate to the level of measurements of for each variable? 4. Are the inferential statistics used appropriate to the intent of the hypotheses? 5. Does the author report the level of significance set for the study? If so, what is it? 6. If tables or figures are used, do they meet the following standards?    1. They supplement and economize the text    2. They have precise titles and headings    3. They are not repetitions of the text |
| Conclusions, implications & recommendations | 1. If hypothesis testing was done, was the hypothesis supported or not supported? 2. Are the results interpreted in the context of the problem/purpose, hypothesis and theoretical framework? 3. Are limitations discussed? 4. What relevance for nursing practice is identified? 5. What generalizations are made? 6. Are the generalizations within the scope of the findings? 7. What recommendations are made for future research? |
| Application and utilization for nursing practice | 1. Does the study appear valid? 2. Are there other studies with similar findings? 3. What risks/benefits are involved for patients if findings are used in practice? 4. Are the research findings feasible to implement in practice? 5. Is the study possible to replicate in another clinical practice setting? |

**Rubric: Qualitative**

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| **Section** | **Possible mark/20** |
| Overall summary of the study | 2 |
| Problem statement and purpose | 1 |
| Literature review and framework | 2 |
| Research questions | 1 |
| Population and sample | 1 |
| Research design | 1 |
| Research approach: data collection | 1 |
| Procedures | 2 |
| Enhancement of rigour | 1 |
| Analysis of data: findings | 2 |
| Theoretical integration | 1 |
| Discussion implications and findings | 1 |
| Application and utilization for nursing practice | 1 |
| Summary of major strengths and weaknesses | 2 |
| Quality of argument: coherent and well organized | 1 |

**Rubric: Quantitative**

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| **Section** | **Possible mark/20** |
| Overall summary of the study | 2 |
| Problem statement and purpose | 1 |
| Literature review and frameworks | 2 |
| Hypothesis or research questions | 1 |
| Population and sample | 1 |
| Research design | 1 |
| Internal and external validity | 1 |
| Research approach: Data collection, Ethics, Instruments | 3 |
| Reliability and validity | 1 |
| Data analysis | 2 |
| Conclusions, implications and recommendations | 1 |
| Application and utilization for nursing practice | 1 |
| Summary of major strengths and weaknesses | 2 |
| Quality of argument: coherent and well organized | 1 |

**APA format expectations for paper**

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| **Criteria** | **Prompts for criteria** | **Potential mark reduction/20** |
| APA format | * No or few/minor errors in grammar, overall organization of paper and clarity of writing * No or few/minor errors in APA formatting and assignment instructions * format correct, ie., running head, page number, line spacing, headings * in-text citations correct as per APA Sixth edition manual * references documented in correct format as per APA Sixth edition manual | 5 |

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| Mark | Interpretation |
| 1 | Strong. Well written with opinion incorporated throughout. Addressed all components of the evaluation criteria |
| 0.5 | Moderate. Some components of the evaluation criteria addressed |
| 0 | Weak. Few or no components of the evaluation criteria addressed |