

Research Study Grading Rubric

Please see the sample study formatting guide for information about required headings, etc.

I. Chapter 3: Method (References as needed; typically 3-5 pages); Title page, table of contents, abstract. **Revision must be written in past tense.**

A. Participants and Sampling

- (5) Describe the sample, including sample size, expected demographic characteristics of participants, and any other relevant information (e.g., special characteristics).
- (5) Explain how the sample was recruited or enrolled, including information about the site where the research took place.
- (5) Describe any consent procedures that were used.

Total: 15 points

B. Measures

- (5) Describe what instruments/measures you used to measure the variables (e.g., survey, test, observational form, interview, etc.).
- (5) Provide information about how reliability and validity were demonstrated for each instrument/method.

Total: 10 points

C. Design

- (5) Briefly describe the qualitative or quantitative design that was used (i.e., survey, correlational, causal-comparative, experimental, single-subject experimental, case study, narrative, or ethnographic).

Note that the appropriate language must be used when describing the design (e.g., independent and dependent variables in experimental research; predictor or grouping variable and outcome variables in correlational and causal-comparative research, etc.)

- (5) Explain why this design was chosen.
- (10) Describe any threats to validity associated with the design, and how these were addressed.

Total: 20 points

D. Procedure

- (10) Describe specifically what you did, step-by-step, including any interventions, apparatus, or materials used.
- (5) Provide the actual timeline for conducting the study, including data collection.

Total: 15 points

E. Data analysis plan

- (5) Describe how data were organized, maintained, and analyzed with qualitative and/or quantitative methods. This should involve a description of how you kept the data secure.

Total: 5 points

F. Ethical issues

- (5) Briefly describe how permission was obtained to conduct the study and the timeframe for doing so.
- (5) Describe any ethical issues that were involved in conducting the study and how you addressed these. For qualitative research, describe your role and explain how this was managed to ensure that the research remains ethical.

Total: 10 points

G. Written presentation

- (5) Grammar and style
- (5) APA style

Total: 10 points

H. Title page, abstract, and table of contents

- (5) Title page must be formatted to the sample study format specifications. Title must be 12 words or fewer. Running head must be 50 characters or fewer.
- (5) Table of contents must include all headings and subheadings, with page numbers.
- (5) Abstract must be 200 words or fewer and should provide a summary of the research topic and plan.

Note that the final abstract should reflect the study findings and implications.

Total: 15 points

Chapter total: 100 points

II. Chapter 4: Study implementation, data analysis and presentation of results (references as needed)

A. Study implementation (Note: This is not included in the write-up itself. These points will be awarded based on the professor's evaluation of your preliminary work.)

- (10) Follow the research proposal protocol (or, if modified, describe the modifications).
- (5) Organize data systematically.

Total: 15 points

B. Data analysis

- (5) Describe the procedure(s) for data analysis.
- (15) Conduct statistical procedures or qualitative methods of data analysis.
- (25) Accurately describe the results of the analyses.

Total: 45 points

C. Visual presentation of results

- (30) Create a table for descriptive statistics (means, standard deviations) or qualitative data.

OR

- (30) Create a figure or other visual aid to illustrate at least one finding.

OR

- (30) Provide a transcript of an interview, ensuring that participant's name is changed.

Total: 30 points (Note: Students may include both a table and a figure, or multiple tables and/or figures, but only one visual is required).

D. Written presentation

- (5) Grammar
- (5) APA style

Total: 10 points

Chapter total: 100 points

III. Chapter 5: Interpretation and recommendations (Minimum 5 references; may be repeats)

A. Interpretation of findings

- (10) State whether the findings support or do not support the hypothesis.
- (20) If the hypothesis was supported, describe how this is consistent with findings from previous studies. If the hypothesis was not supported, provide possible explanations.

Total: 30 points

B. Strengths and limitations

- (10) Identify at least **two** strengths of the study.
- (10) Identify at least **two** limitations of the study, especially in terms of internal or external validity.

Total: 20 points

C. Recommendations and action planning

- (15) Based on results of the study, make at least **two** recommendations to the target audience (e.g., educators, counselors, etc.).
- (10) Describe how this study will affect your own work.
- (10) Describe possible next steps for additional research, to answer any questions that the current study could not answer.

Total: 35 points

D. Written presentation

- (5) Grammar
- (5) APA style
- (5) Minimum 5 scholarly references in APA style (may repeat previous chapters' references)

Total: 15 points

Chapter total: 100 points