

Research Proposal Grading Rubric

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

I. Chapter 1: Introduction (Minimum of 5 references; typically 5-7 pages)

A. Introduction of the research topic

- (15) Introduce the topic and the population that the study will investigate.

Total: 15 points

B. Self-reflection

- (10) State the theories and professional values that guide your practice.
- (20) Describe your personal experiences with the topic that you will be studying. (For example, you may want to describe a problem that exists in your setting, tentative explanations for why the problem exists, and how the problem is currently handled in your setting.)

Total: 30 points

C. Research hypothesis and justification

- (10) Explicitly state the hypothesis or hypotheses of the study (or, for qualitative studies that do not have a firm hypothesis, state the guiding research question).
- (15) Briefly describe the research design. Include the specific qualitative or quantitative **design** (e.g., survey, correlational, true experimental, case study, etc.), a brief description of the **participants** (e.g., sixth grade students at a large, urban public middle school), and a description of the **variables** (e.g., exposure to video games and reading achievement).
- (15) Explain the personal, educational, therapeutic, and/or social significance of the study.

Total: 40 points

D. Written presentation

- (5) Grammar and style
- (5) APA style
- (5) Minimum of 5 **scholarly** references in APA style

Total: 15 points

Chapter total: 100 points

II. Chapter 2: Literature review (Minimum of 10 references; typically 10-15 pages)

A. Organization and structure

- (5) Include subheadings that organize the literature review.
- (5) Group studies together so that the paper flows in a logical and coherent manner.

Total: 10 points

B. Review of literature

- (70) Under each subheading, critique the most relevant research (at least 10 separate **peer-reviewed** sources) pertaining to the research topic. Include strengths and limitations of each study, where applicable.

Note: 7 points per source. To earn full credit for each source reviewed, the study must be clearly linked to the research topic and must be from a peer-reviewed journal.

Of the 10 sources, at least 6 must be empirical studies (i.e., studies with a method). For these studies, the review must include a critique of the study's methodological strengths and limitations. The remaining sources may include theoretical or opinion pieces, reviews, etc.

- (5) Summarize the reviewed literature to provide a context for the current research question, including a brief summary of how the current study will overcome previous limitations and/or enhance the existing literature.

Total: 75 points

C. Written presentation

- (5) Grammar and style
- (5) APA style
- (5) Minimum of 10 **peer-reviewed** references in APA style

Total: 15 points

Chapter total: 100 points

III. Chapter 3: Method (References as needed; typically 3-5 pages); Title page, table of contents, abstract

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 will be recruited or enrolled, including information about the site where the research will take place.
- (5) Describe any consent procedures that will be used.

Total: 15 points

B. Measures

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

Total: 10 points

C. Design

- (5) Briefly describe the qualitative or quantitative design that will be 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 will be addressed.

Total: 20 points

D. Procedure

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

Total: 15 points

E. Data analysis plan

- (5) Describe how data will be organized, maintained, and analyzed with qualitative and/or quantitative methods. This should involve a description of the plan for keeping the data secure.

Total: 5 points

F. Ethical issues

- (5) Briefly describe how permission will be obtained to conduct the study and the timeframe for doing so.
- (5) Describe any ethical issues that may be involved in conducting the study and how you will address these. For qualitative research, describe your role and explain how this will be 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 abstract will be a working draft, to be modified upon completion of Chapters 4 and 5.

Total: 15 points

Chapter total: 100 points