

FORMAT FOR WRITTEN CRITIQUE OF A NURSING RESEARCH ARTICLE

GUIDELINES AND GRADING CRITERIA

1. Students are to work in groups of four people to select a research article and to write a critique.
2. The critique of the nursing research article is to be written in essay form as a formal paper using APA format.
3. The page limit is a maximum of 10 pages of text excluding title page, abstract, and reference page.
4. Recommended for guidance with written expression of ideas and paper format:

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association, 5th ed.* Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.
5. The article chosen for this project must be submitted to Dr. Callaghan for her approval on September 8th. The student groups will meet during class time each week to discuss how their article meets the evaluation criteria. These critiques are due on December 1 and will be presented in class to fellow students on that day. Each student group also will prepare a poster presentation (see separate guidelines) on the critiqued article discussing the research, the major findings, and how they can be applied to nursing practice. The students will present these posters in a health care setting on December 8.
6. The following references may be helpful in guiding the critique of the article:

Arslanian, C. (2000). How to read a nursing research article. *Orthopaedic Nursing, 19*(3), 43-44.

Rankin, M. & Esteves, M.D. (1996). How to assess a research study. *American Journal of Nursing, 96*(12), 32-36.

Riley, J.K. (2002). Understanding research articles. *Tar Heel Nurse, 64*(3), 15.

Robinson, J.H. (2001). Mastering research critique and statistical interpretation: Guidelines and golden rules. *Nurse Educator, 26*(3), 136-141.
7. The critique grade will constitute 20% of the final grade for the course. Participation of each student is mandatory in order to receive a grade for the critique.

Quantitative Research Evaluation

Listed below are criteria that you will use to critique your research article. Discuss how the investigator satisfied each criterion. Cite relevant passages in the articles, with reference to page number if appropriate. Don't merely respond "yes" or "no" to the presence or absence of each criterion—you must provide examples and rationale for your response.

Introduction – 15 points

1. Is the purpose of the study presented?
2. Is the significance (importance) of the problem discussed?
3. Does the investigator provide a sense of what he or she is doing and why?

Problem statement – 5 points

1. Is the problem statement clear?
2. Does the investigator identify key research questions and variables to be examined?
3. Does the study have the potential to help solve a problem that is currently faced in clinical practice?

Literature review – 5 points

1. Does the literature review follow a logical sequence leading to a critical review of supporting and conflicting prior work?
2. Is the relationship of the study to previous research clear?
3. Does the investigator describe gaps in the literature and support the necessity of the present study?

Theoretical framework and hypotheses – 5 points

1. Is a rationale stated for the theoretical/conceptual framework?
2. Does the investigator clearly state the theoretical basis for hypothesis formulation?
3. Is the hypothesis stated precisely and in a form that permits it to be tested?

Methodology – 10 points

1. Are the relevant variables and concepts clearly and operationally defined?
2. Is the design appropriate for the research questions or hypotheses?
3. Are methods of data collection sufficiently described?
4. What are the identified and potential threats to internal and external validity that were present in the study?
5. If there was more than one data collector, was inter-rater reliability adequate?

Sample – 5 points

1. Are the subjects and sampling methods described?
2. Is the sample of sufficient size for the study, given the number of variables and design?
3. Is there adequate assurance that the rights of human subjects were protected?

Instruments – 5 points

1. Are appropriate instruments for data collection used?
2. Are reliability and validity of the measurement instruments adequate'?

Data analysis – 5 points

1. Are the statistical tests used identified and the values reported?
2. Are appropriate statistics used, according to level of measurement, sample size, sampling method, and hypotheses/research questions?

Results – 5 points

1. Are the results for each hypothesis clearly and objectively presented?
2. Do the figures and tables illuminate the presentation of results'?
3. Are results described in light of the theoretical framework and supporting literature?

Conclusions/discussion – 10 points

1. Are conclusions based on the results and related to the hypotheses'?
2. Are study limitations identified?
3. Are generalizations made within the scope of the findings?
4. Are implications of findings discussed (i.e., for practice, education, and research)?
5. Are recommendations for further research stated?

Research utilization implications – 15 points

1. Is the study of sufficient quality to meet the criterion of scientific merit'?
2. Does the study meet the criterion of replicability?
3. Is the study of relevance to practice?
4. Is the study feasible for nurses to implement?
5. Do the benefits of the study outweigh the risks?

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Qualitative Research Evaluation

Listed below are criteria that you will use to critique your research article. Discuss how the investigator satisfied each criterion. Cite relevant passages in the articles, with reference to page number if appropriate. Don't merely respond "yes" or "no" to the presence or absence of each criterion—you must provide examples and rationale for your response.

Statement of the phenomenon of interest – 15 points

1. Is the phenomenon of interest clearly identified?
2. Has the researcher identified why the phenomenon requires a qualitative format?
3. Has the researcher described the philosophic underpinnings of the research?

Purpose – 5 points

1. Has the researcher made explicit the purpose of conducting the research?
2. Does the researcher describe the projected significance of the work to nursing?

Method – 5 points

1. Is the method used to collect data compatible with the purpose of the research?
2. Is the method adequate to address the phenomenon of interest?
3. If a particular approach is used to guide the inquiry, does the researcher complete the study according to the processes described?

Sampling – 5 points

1. Does the researcher describe the selection of participants? Is purposive sampling used?
2. Are the informants who were chosen appropriate to inform the research?

Data collection – 10 points

1. Is data collection focused on human experience?
2. Does the researcher describe data collection strategies (i.e., interview, observation, field notes)?
3. Is protection of human participants addressed?
4. Is saturation of the data described?
5. Has the researcher made explicit the procedures for collecting data?

Data analysis – 20 points

1. Does the researcher describe the strategies used to analyze the data?
2. Has the researcher remained true to the data?
3. Does the reader understand the procedures used to analyze the data?
4. Does the researcher address the credibility, auditability, and fittingness of the data?

Credibility

- a. Do the participants recognize the experience as their own?

Auditability

- a. Can the reader follow the researcher's thinking?
- b. Does the researcher document the research process?

Fittingness

- a. Can the findings be applicable outside the study situation? b. Are the results meaningful to individuals not involved in the research?

5. Is the strategy used for analysis compatible with the purpose of the study?

Findings – 10 points

1. Are the findings presented within a context?
2. Is the reader able to grasp the essence of the experience from the report of the findings?
3. Are the researcher's conceptualizations true to the data?
4. Does the researcher place the report in the context of what already is known about the phenomenon?

Conclusion, implications, and recommendations – 15 points

1. Do the conclusions, implications, and recommendations give the reader a context in which to use the findings?
2. Do the conclusions reflect the study findings?
3. Does the researcher offer recommendations for future study?
4. Has the researcher made explicit the significance of the study to nursing?

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Use of proper format (APA), grammar, spelling, and punctuation – 15 points

Student Paper General Requirements and Guidelines

1. All papers must be typewritten or printed on standard 8 1/2 x 11 inch white bond paper. The type-face should be times roman or courier. Do not use bold or other styles of type. Limit the use of italicized words.
2. All papers must have a title page that includes a page header, running head, title and author's name and affiliation.
3. All papers must have margins of at least 1 inch at the top, bottom, left, and right of every page. Do not justify the right margin and do not hyphenate words at the end of a line.
4. All papers must include an abstract of not more than 120 words. Included in this abstract are the topic of the paper, the purpose of the paper, the sources used in developing the paper, and conclusions.
5. All pages of the paper must be numbered starting with the title page as page 1, the abstract as page 2, and the text of the paper beginning on page 3. The title of the paper must appear centered at the top of page 3.
6. The entire paper must be double-spaced including the reference list.
7. The first line of every paragraph in the paper must be indented 5 spaces.
8. There must be only 1 space after commas, colons, semi-colons, punctuation marks at the end of sentences, and periods after initials.
9. Headings may be used to organize the paper into sections.
10. The reference list must include only those references cited in the text of the paper.
11. All ideas that are not your own must be cited within the text of the paper and referenced in the reference list. Failure to do so is **PLAGIARISM**.
12. Limit the use of direct quotes by paraphrasing ideas taken from references. These paraphrases do need to include citation of the author(s).
13. The citation after direct quotes must include the page number of the reference that is being quoted.

TOTAL POINTS _____