

Evaluating Research Projects

- Why evaluate projects?
 - ◆ All studies are not valuable
 - ◆ All studies are not true
 - ◆ All studies are biased
- Decisions are made based on research studies

Basic Criteria

- Introduction
- Review of Literature
- Method
- Results
- Discussion

The Introduction

■ Elements

- ◆ Statement of problem (or qualitative topic)
 - ◆ Must be researchable
- ◆ Background information
 - ◆ Situate the problem in society or context
 - ◆ Describe the significance of the problem
 - ◆ Qualitative topic
 - Indicate the variables and relationships
 - General indication of topic/issue
 - ◆ Definition of variables

Review of Literature

- Types of references
- Analysis of references
- Organization of information
- Citation of references
- Summary of references
- Implications discussed

Types of References

- Two basic types
 - ◆ Primary
 - ◆ Secondary

Analysis of References

- Are all references relevant?
- Have references been analyzed and categorized so that relationships are discovered and discussed?
- Is the relevancy of each reference discussed

Organization of Review

- Is the organization “reader friendly?”
 - ◆ Least important to most important
 - ◆ Is it informative?

Citation of References

- All references must be properly cited.
- Use APA format

Implications

- Based on your research—what are the implications for further research, the “holes” others have not filled, or solutions to the problem not yet discussed?
- How does the above relate to your study?

Summary of References

- Conclude the review with a summary

Methods

- Participants
- Instruments
- Design and procedures

Participants

- Size
- Characteristics
- Selection
- Biases in selection
- Adequate description

Instruments

- How are you going to collect data?
 - ◆ Survey
 - ◆ Interview
 - ◆ Observation

Design and Procedures

- Appropriateness
- Description
- Application

Discussion (Conclusion/Recommendations)

- Results
- Generalizations
- Effects
- Implications
- Recommendations
- Suggestions

Abstract

- First is last
- Statement of problem
- Number and type of participants
- Procedures
- Major results