

CHAPTER 1

The Process of Research: Learning How Research Is Conducted and Reported

For each question below, circle the best answer or indicate your response as directed.

1. Provide a definition for research.

2. Which is the first major section of a typical research report?

- a. Conclusion
- b. Results
- c. Method
- d. Introduction

3. Which is the second major section of a typical research report?

- a. Conclusion
- b. Introduction
- c. Method
- d. Results

4. Which is the third major section of a typical research report?

- a. Conclusion
- b. Introduction
- c. Results
- d. Method

5. Which is the last major section of a typical research report?

- a. Conclusion
- b. Introduction
- c. Results
- d. Method

6. Which is the least compelling reason to read research?

- a. Reading research can suggest improvements for your practice
- b. Reading research can offer new ideas to consider
- c. Reading research can help you evaluate alternative approaches to use
- d. Reading research can inform you as to what your competition is doing

7. To apply research in your practical professional setting, you might

- a. Examine what other practitioners are doing in their settings
- b. Look to research the methods of professors in your courses
- c. To the educational library and begin to locate topics
- d. Find out what research has to say by examining research studies

8. Which of the following is an example of an evidence-based practice?

- a. A nurse uses a strategy for working with patients as told to her by a local physician
- b. A social worker initiates a special program to work with families based on the results of a research study in a similar setting
- c. A counselor sends materials home to parents because that is what has been done in the school for the past 10 years
- d. A teacher designs her lesson plan to match the structure of the lessons she found most effective when she was a student

9. Which source of information is considered the best when reading about research on a specific topic?

- a. Study reports posted to websites
- b. Papers presented at conferences
- c. Dissertations
- d. Journal articles

10. Which of the following uses for scholarly writing would indicate research?

- a. To summarize and critique a collection of different writings about a topic
- b. To synthesize ideas about a topic into a framework or model that identifies key concepts and how they are related to each other
- c. To collect and analyze data in order to increase our knowledge about a topic or issue
- d. To provide a description of the features involved in the implementation of a particular program from the individuals who are running the program

11. What is the first step in the process of research?

- a. Identifying a research problem
- b. Reviewing the literature
- c. Interpreting the research
- d. Specifying a purpose

12. What is the last step in the process of research?

- a. Selecting a design and collecting data
- b. Disseminating and evaluating research
- c. Analyzing data and reporting results
- d. Interpreting the research

13. What is the most important task when specifying the purpose of a research study

- a. Specifying the research questions to be answered
- b. Stating the hypotheses to be tested
- c. Indicating the major focus of the study
- d. Noting the participants of the study

14. Which is an example of formal research?

- a. Toddlers testing their parents' reaction when they knock a bowl of spaghetti on to the floor
- b. Students engaging in inquiry-based learning activities in science class
- c. A program coordinator systematically collects feedback from program participants
- d. Sports fans gathering information to decide which players to include on their fantasy teams

15. A “peer-reviewed journal” means which of the following:

- a. Practitioners assess how useful the implications of the study’s results are
- b. Different audiences use different standards for judging the quality and utility of a research study.
- c. Researchers evaluate the studies’ quality of its literature, data collection and analysis procedures, and results
- d. Colleagues review studies prior to publication to make sure all steps in the research process have been followed

16. Which two steps are distinguishing features of formal research?

- a. Asking a research question and collecting data
- b. Gaining IRB approval and analyzing data
- c. Analyzing data and submitting the results for publication
- d. Collection of data and data analysis

17. What is the primary reason to conduct a literature review?

- a. To avoid repeating a previous study and build on accumulated knowledge about the topic
- b. To learn about successful practices before designing the research study
- c. To show expertise in the topic in order to build credibility with the reader
- d. To gain support from funding agencies who might invest in a research idea

18. What do researchers use as background information to plan their studies and to interpret the results at the end of the study?

- a. Personal Experiences
- b. Standards of Practice
- c. Historical Documents
- d. Literature Review

19. Which step sets the direction and goals for a research study?

- a. Research Questions
- b. Generating Hypotheses
- c. Specifying a Purpose
- d. Selecting the Research Design

20. What are evidence-based practices?

- a. Practices that are part of established training programs
- b. Practices that have been shown to be effective through research
- c. Practices that follow established guidelines and policies
- d. Practices that are based on national standards

21. During what step of the research process do researchers consider the limitations of their studies?

- a. Analyzing Data
- b. Describing Methods
- c. Drawing Conclusions
- d. Reporting Results

22. In what section would you find a list of references cited within the study report?

- a. Back Matter
- b. Literature Review
- c. Appendices
- d. Discussion

23. Which of the following steps of the research process is usually reported in the Introduction section of a research report?

- a. Selecting a design and collecting data
- b. Analyzing data and reporting results
- c. Interpreting the research
- d. Specifying a purpose

24. Which of the following steps of the research process is usually reported in the Method section of a research report?

- a. Specifying a purpose
- b. Identifying a research problem
- c. Interpreting the research
- d. Selecting a design and collecting data

25. In what section would you find the answer to the research question?

- a. Introduction
- b. Results
- c. Abstract
- d. Discussion

26. Which of the following steps of the research process is usually reported in the Conclusion section of a research report?

- a. Analyzing data and reporting results
- b. Reviewing the literature
- c. Interpreting the research
- d. Selecting a design and collecting data

27. Which of the following steps of the research process is usually reported in the results section of a research report?

- a. Identifying a research problem
- b. Disseminating and evaluating the research
- c. Selecting a design and collecting data
- d. Analyzing data and reporting results

28. In what section would you find the study's results compared with results found in other published studies?

- a. Literature Review
- b. Discussion
- c. Results
- d. Findings

29. In what section would you typically find the research questions?

- a. Abstract
- b. Introduction
- c. Methods
- d. Purpose Statement

30. In what section would you find the details of the study's research design?

- a. Methods
- b. Data Collection
- c. Sampling Strategy
- d. Data Analysis

CHAPTER 2

Quantitative and Qualitative Research: Understanding Different Types of Study Reports

For each question below, circle the best answer or indicate your response as directed.

1. Which factor listed below indicates a similarity between quantitative and qualitative research in the use of the literature?

- a. The amount of literature review included in a study
- b. The use of literature to support the need for research questions
- c. The use of literature to justify the research problem
- d. The use of literature to direct the study's purpose

2. Which group of words would indicate a quantitative study?

- a. Case study, grounded theory
- b. Interview, focus group, field notes
- c. Questionnaire, comparisons
- d. Content analysis, perspectives

3. What research purpose is best suited for quantitative research studies?

- a. To understand multiple perspectives and contexts among individuals
- b. To explore the complexity and meaning of phenomena
- c. To uncover the unexpected or unique
- d. To uncover the relationship among specific concepts

4. When examining a published journal article, what characteristic suggests that it is a quantitative study?

- a. The problem is a current issue
- b. The report is written in user-friendly terms
- c. The researchers do not refer to themselves
- d. The authors had firsthand experiences with the topic

5. What research purpose is best suited for qualitative research studies?

- a. To understand trends among large groups of individuals or organizations
- b. To discover a theoretical model of emerging issues
- c. To describe the prevalence of specific concepts
- d. To assess whether an intervention causes desired outcomes

6. When examining a published journal article, what characteristic suggests that it is a qualitative study?

- a. Asks specific, narrow questions
- b. Explains different variables or factors
- c. Collects text-based data from participants
- d. Conducts the inquiry in an unbiased, objective manner

7. When examining a published journal article, what characteristic suggests that it is a quantitative study?

- a. Asks broad, general questions
- b. Explores individuals' perspectives of a single concept
- c. Analyzes data using mathematical procedures
- d. Conducts the inquiry in a subjective and reflexive manner

8. Which group of words would indicate a qualitative study?

- a. Observation, perspectives
- b. Correlation, non-experimental
- c. Variables, factors, measures
- d. Associations, significance

9. What is the key defining feature of combined research studies?

- a. Combines the two sets of results into an overall understanding of the topic
- b. Explains variables and explores a phenomenon
- c. Collects data consisting of numbers and words
- d. Analyzes data for statistical trends and themes

10. When examining a published journal article, what characteristic suggests that it is a qualitative study?

- a. The literature justifies the research problem
- b. Interpretation of the larger meaning
- c. An objective reporting stance by the researcher
- d. A comparison of results with predictions from studies

For each of the following statements, indicate whether it is a characteristic more applicable to quantitative or qualitative research or both. Place an "X" in the appropriate column(s).

Characteristic	Quantitative	Qualitative
11. A non-experimental research design is planned		
12. The research problem is justified as an important issue worthy of study		
13. The literature plays mostly a static and prescriptive role in the study		
14. The data include numeric scores for variables		
15. Statistical and graphical analysis of the data is used to compare groups, relate variables, and describe trends		
16. The researcher asks open-ended research questions about a phenomenon		
17. The report uses a flexible and emerging format		
18. The researcher is subjective and reflexive		
19. Data are gathered from a large number of individuals, sites, or time points		
20. The research problem calls for an exploration and developing understanding		
21. The literature plays mostly a dynamic and informative role in the study		
22. Text and image analysis of the data is used to develop and report description and themes		
23. The research problem calls for an explanation and measuring trends		
24. The researcher states hypotheses about variables		
25. The data include text and images		
26. The report and evaluation uses a standard and fixed format		
27. The purpose is specific and narrow		
28. The results are interpreted in terms of their overall meaning		
29. The purpose is general and broad		
30. The researcher is objective and impersonal		
31. The results are compared with predictions and past studies		
32. Data are gathered from a small number of individuals or sites		