

Critique of a research article assessment guidelines

The purpose of the Critique of a Research Article assessment is to:

- Go through the process of thinking critically about the merits and faults within the article of your choice.
- Give you practice in applying your knowledge about the research methods you have learned about in the course.
- Assess your competencies in research method content

Guidelines

Structure:

1. **Introduction:** provides an overview of the article's purpose and main argument and offers the writer's thesis regarding the article's strengths and weaknesses.
2. **Summary paragraph:** briefly reviews the article's key points.
3. **Assessment /opinion paragraphs:** analyse the article's strengths and weaknesses. In discussing strengths, the you can point to the article's inclusion of certain/ unique context or participant groups, persuasive interpretations, thorough explication of the supportive data, or results that apply to practice/ other arenas of study. In critiquing weaknesses you may examine the researcher's ineffective use of qualitative methodology, inaccuracy, unconvincing argumentation, failure to explore/explain ideas within the scope of the main argument or disregard of designs/ methods/ data sources that would better support the research goal.
4. **Conclusion:** presents commentary on the article's overall usefulness.

You may critique the selective sections of the article in your Assessment/opinion paragraphs. For example:

Literature review section:

- The depth (i.e. the details) and breadth (i.e. the overview) of the literature review, if the article has a lit review section.
- The adequacy of the rationale for why this study was needed

Methodology section: Do you think the components of the methods listed below were the best suited in answering the study's research questions? Why or why not? Address each of the following elements:

- Research design. Consider the authors' explanation for their chosen research design and any alternative designs that would be better suited
- Sampling methods. Consider choice of the recruitment methods, types of participants (any one left out?) etc.
- Types of data and data collection methods. Consider ability of the data to answer the research questions & also adequacy of the data collection methods and quality procedures

Results, discussion and implications section. Do you think this study's findings fill a gap in the knowledge base on this topic? Why or why not. Do you think the study's findings have relevance for practice and policy in this area? Why or why not. Consider what new

information did this study produce? How important do you think this new information is in terms of its contribution on practice and policy in this topic area?

Directions for future research section. Do you think the directions for future research outlined in the article will help improve on this study and move the field forward with respect to this topic? Why or why not. Consider the specificity and originality of the authors' recommendations for future research; your own ideas for future research

General suggestions:

- Effective critiques cover the article's significant points. A critique that ignores the article's main argument or concentrates on ideas mentioned parenthetically suggests a lack of comprehension on the your part.
- Avoid composing a critique that solely addresses the article's strengths. Such critiques tend to read as summaries rather than assessments.
- Although you need not present a balanced opinion of the article, you must be fair. A single article cannot address every aspect of the research topic. Consequently, a valid assessment of weaknesses will not raise points that fall outside the article's scope or purpose.
- Be sure to explain the reasons for your opinions and, whenever possible, provide examples from the article to support your conclusions. If you find fault in an area of the article, consider an alternative approach that would improve the methods.

*Definitions of "critique" include:

- A critical review or commentary
- A detailed analysis and assessment of something
- A method of disciplined, systematic analysis of a written or oral discourse
- Involves identifying both strengths and faults