

Populating your Portfolio: Additional Elements & Checklist

In the last seven weeks, we have explored central philosophical and methodological underpinnings for research at doctoral level for DBA students. You have also had the opportunity to give a draft presentation for Assignment 2, and your work was all generally very good. With constructive feedback received to improve your presentation, you will also examine Kuhn's framework in detail to structure your portfolio for Assignment 1. These slides now provide actionable suggestions on what should be complete and what can go directly into your portfolio.

Module Milestone: Bridging the conceptual transitions from Assignment 2 (Draft Presentation) to Assignment 1 (Aesthetic & Scholarly Portfolio Compilation).

1. The Literature Base

MAPPING

Journal Article Table

Maintain and actively grow your systematic collection of relevant academic articles.

Portfolio Action: Embed your live summary table displaying critical metadata, core findings, paradigms, and direct alignment with your research questions.

Compare, Contrast, Synthesize

Do not simply list literature. You must construct a meaningful synthesis of the compiled knowledge.

Portfolio Action: Group papers by theme, establish connections, highlight conceptual debates, and identify persistent gaps in organizational understanding.

2. Wallace & Wray Synopsis

TEMPLATE DOMAIN	ANALYTICAL QUESTION TO ADDRESS FOR THE CHOSEN KEY PAPER
A. Purpose of Reading	Why am I reading this text? What specific conceptual or methodological guidance does it offer my DBA?
B. Author Intent	What are the authors trying to achieve in writing this? What is their core objective?
C. Key Claims	What are the authors claiming that is directly relevant to my thesis and business problem?
D. Evaluation of Claims	How convincing are these claims, and why? What is the logical strength of their evidence or warranting?
E. Ultimate Application	In conclusion, what specific use can I make of this paper in shaping my own portfolio and design?

3. The Core Research Template

FOCUS



What?

Define your thesis working title and the exact phenomenon under critical investigation.



Why?

Articulate the practical and academic significance. Why is this project critical for business leadership?



How? (Design)

Outline your methodological approach. How are you gathering primary data or framing critical observations?



How? (Analysis)

Specify the analytical path. How will you systematically process findings to generate original knowledge?

4. Completing the Crucible

SYNTHESIS

The Topic Crucible is a vital synthesis tool designed to distill diverse variables down into an elegant, rigorous, and logically consistent research focus.

-  **Distillation:** Squeeze raw administrative concerns down into tight, answerable, and academically viable research questions.
-  **Paradigm Alignment:** Ensure your epistemological assumptions (e.g., pragmatism or critical realism) align perfectly with your analytical methods.
-  **Bounding the Scope:** Establish explicit limits on your investigation. Clearly outline what is inside your research boundary and what lies outside.

5. Collecting Realia

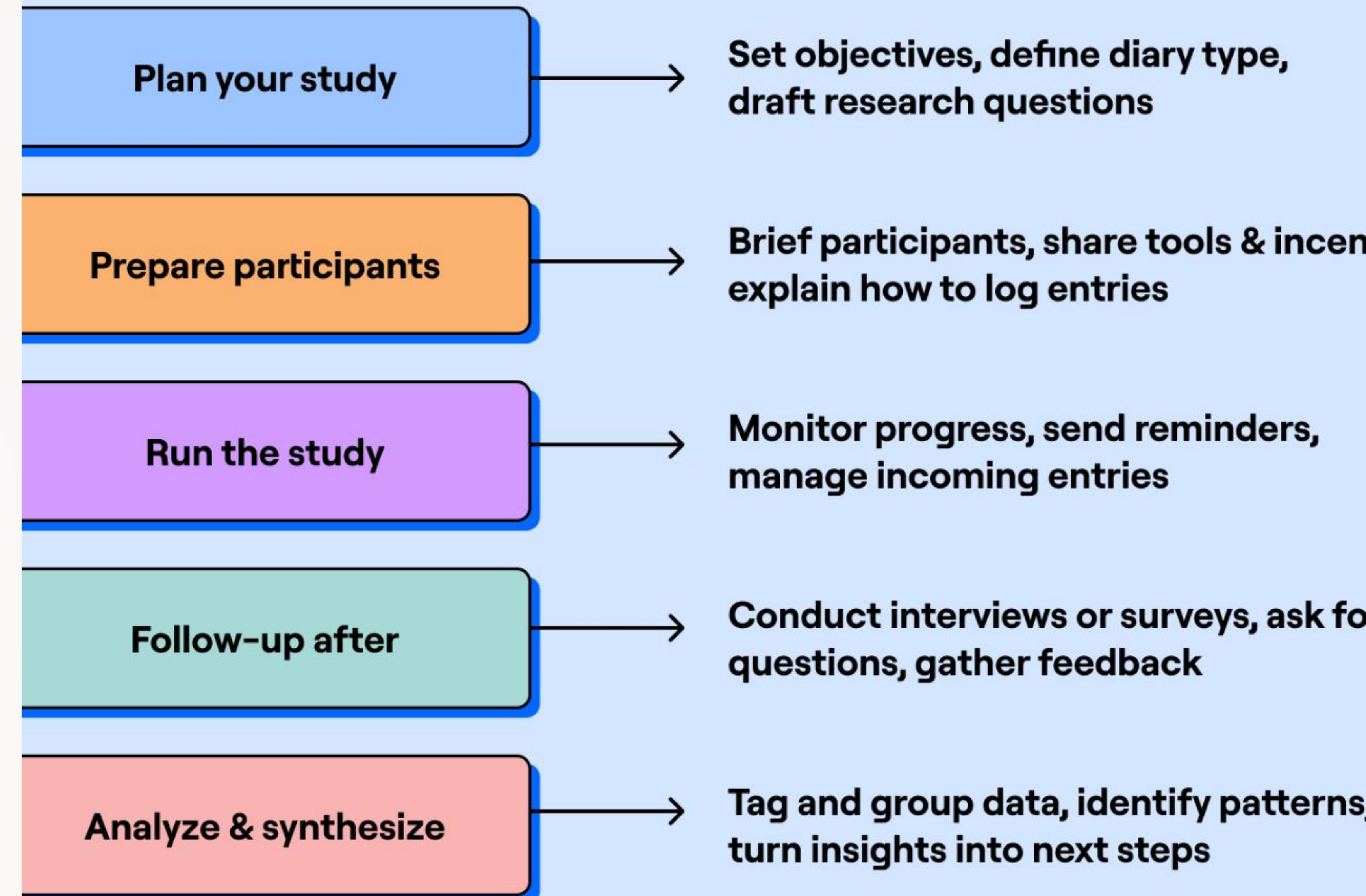
EVIDENCE

Authenticity Over Perfection

Your portfolio must be populated with genuine artifacts that prove active doctoral exploration. Avoid sanitizing your research journey.

Artifacts to Include: Extracts from your research diary, developmental peer feedback, documentation of false starts, critical challenges, relevant imagery, and early pilot results.

The diary study workflow



6. Collaborative Brainstorming

DISCUSSION

Class Brainstorm Goal

Let's collaborate as a doctoral cohort to identify further creative elements that can build authenticity, rigor, and depth in your portfolios.

Think: What administrative or qualitative records from your professional sphere might provide powerful context for external examiners?

Inspiration Indicators

Consider integrating elements such as:

- **Methodological Drafts:** Initial versions of survey questions or semi-structured interview protocols.
- **Institutional Correspondence:** Early communication verifying access to organizational data.
- **Ethical Frameworks:** Self-critical reflections on participant consent and data risk management.

Your Portfolio Roadmap

Integrate literature mapping, template synopses, and real-world realia to craft a credible academic story.

DBA Research Portfolio Checklist
Assignment 1 Submission Preparation
Portal

Image Sources



<https://www.datocms-assets.com/38511/1757931056-the-diary-study-workflow.png?auto=format>

Source: [maze.co](https://www.maze.co)