

## 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.**

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