

Research Assignment

Students will conduct and analyze a brief sample survey (minimum of 15 participants) and conduct a research interview on a topic of interest to them.

Sample Survey Instructions:

- State the topic you have chosen.
- Define a “problem” (an observation/question you have made on the topic)
- Write your hypothesis - a question to guide your research that will be answered by your survey/interview. (See Developing your Skills – Forming a Hypothesis notes)
- For your survey, prepare a brief questionnaire (4-8 questions) that will allow you to collect enough evidence to test the hypothesis. (See Developing your Skills – Designing a Survey or Questionnaire notes)
 - Use a multiple choice format.
 - Use only relevant questions.
- Decide on who will be your sample group. Briefly describe it and how it was selected.
- Describe what you did to administer your questionnaire and conduct your interview in an ethical manner.
 - Explain the purpose of the questionnaire and how the results will be used.
 - Protect confidentiality.
 - Tell the subject that they can decide to not participate or stop at any time and there will be no negative consequences.
- Administer your questionnaire.
- Analyze the data
 - Use a blank questionnaire and record the number of responses to each question. (See page 11 in your text book: “Skill Focus”)
 - Convert the raw scores to percentages. (See page 11 “Skill Focus”)
 - Attach a copy of your questionnaire containing the data to your report.
- Draw Conclusions
 - State which one of the 4 conclusions describes your findings (See page 16 or your notes)
- Summary
 - Describe what you could do differently to improve the design of this particular survey (consider your sample group, questionnaire design, original hypothesis, etc.)

Research Interview Instructions

- Read page 12 in the text “Conducting an Interview”.
- State the topic you have chosen and the purpose for conducting the interview.
- Decide on one person you will interview. Briefly describe that person without revealing their name.
- Write a list of 5-10 open-ended questions (not questions that require only “yes” or “no” for an answer) that will encourage the subject to open up and discuss the topic with you. Your questions will be used as a guide as you may decide to add other questions as the interview continues.
- Follow ethical guidelines in conducting the interview.
- Write the answers given.
- Attach a copy of your question sheet with your interview notes.
- Analyze the results and write up your findings. Discuss the findings and include quotations from the interview.
- Draw Conclusions
 - Sum up the main findings of the interview in a conclusion statement.
- Summary
 - Finish the statement: “if I were to improve the design of this study, I would...”