
Research Proposal Assignment #2: Methodology, Part I
Sample and Procedure

Instructions for submission:

1. Begin your assignment with a statement of your hypothesis (or hypotheses).
2. For this assignment, you will need to complete Part A (Sample) and Part B (Procedure). The information provided in this assignment should be designed to test the hypothesis or hypotheses developed in Assignment #1. Please use the provided headings, and be sure to address all sections of this assignment. Points will be deducted for missing sections.
3. See Example Assignment #2 for the proper format.
4. This assignment must be completed in MS Word (*.doc or *.docx), MS Works (*.wps), or as a basic (*.rtf) file.
5. E-mail your completed assignment to dkamedasjsu@aol.com as an attachment (do not copy and paste it into the e-mail). Be sure to retain the e-mail you send your assignment with just in case. You will receive a confirmation "thank you" e-mail in response to your submission.
6. Include your name as part of the file name (e.g., DinaKameda_Assignment#2)
7. Your assignment is due on Monday, 03.30.09 by 11:59 PM.
8. Late assignments will incur a 5-point deduction, and will not be accepted after Tuesday, 03.31.09

Basic Format for Assignment #2 (Methodology, Part I)

Hypothesis:

- I. Methodology
 - A. Sample
 1. Describe who/what will be included in your sample, and how you plan to select your sample from a larger population:
 - a. What is your population of interest? Who or what will be included in your sampling frame?
 - b. Specify how many subjects (or other units of observation) will be needed for your total sample, and how they will be selected from the population as a whole.
 - c. Specify how many subjects (or other units of observation) will be included in each of your groups.
 - d. How would you ensure your sample is representative of the population you wish to study (ensuring the external validity of your findings)?
 - e. State a specific sampling method that will be employed, and how it would be carried out.

2. Recruitment of subjects and obtaining informed consent and/or obtaining permission to access to data:
Please note that this section requires very detailed information about gaining access to subjects and/or data needed for your study.
- a. Where will you find the subjects or data needed for your study?
 - b. What will you need to do in order to gain access to the subjects and/or data needed for your study?
 - c. Following the guidelines for protection of human subjects, describe how you will obtain the informed consent from subjects, agencies or communities that will provide you with data
 - 1) What you will tell them, or do for them to persuade them to cooperate?
 - 2) How will you ensure a good response rate, and minimize subject attrition, especially if you are collecting data from them over a period of time? Keep in mind that “subject attrition” can still in essence occur even if you will not have any direct contact with people. If you propose document analysis, the inability to locate files or incomplete files, will count as “subject attrition”.
- B. Procedure: Describe the steps you would need to follow in order to conduct your study. This section should include details about the following: (1) more detail about how you would you actually gather the data your need, whether from human subjects, document analysis, or observation; (2) who will collect the data and how will they be trained?; (3) if you are administering a survey or questionnaire, how will you go about doing this?; and (4) the method of documenting data for each of your variables. You may use more than one method of gathering data.
1. Following the recruitment of subjects and/or gaining access to needed data, how would you actually collect the data you need?
 - a. If you plan to use human subjects, describe the process of collecting data from them.
 - 1) Will your subjects be gathered in one place?
 - 2) How many points of data collection will there be?
 - 3) Over what period of time will data collection occur?
 - 4) What method will be used to collect the data?
 - a) Survey?
 - b) Questionnaire?
 - c) Interview?
 - 5) Who will take care of collecting the data from the subjects? If you propose a research team, who will it consist of? How will they be trained?
 - 6) After the data is collected what will be done with it?

- b. If you plan to utilize document analysis, describe the process of collecting the data.
 - 1) From where will you gather the documents to be analyzed?
 - 2) How many points of data collection will there be?
 - 3) Over what period of time will data collection occur?
 - 4) How will the document analysis be carried out?
 - 5) Who will take care of collecting the data? If you propose a research team, who will it consist of? How will they be trained?
 - 6) After the data is collected, what will be done with it?
 - c. If you plan to utilize observation, whether in person or field observation, describe the process of collecting the data.
 - 1) Who or what will be observed?
 - 2) How many points of data collection will there be?
 - 3) Over what period of time will data collection occur?
 - 4) How will the observation be carried out?
 - 5) Who will take care of performing the observation? If you propose a research team, who will it consist of? How will they be trained?
 - 6) After the data is collected, what will be done with it?
2. Provide specific details about how your data will be documented.
- a. Survey (written, telephone, or in-person interviews)
 - 1) Describe the survey or interview items that will directly address each of your proposed variables.
 - 2) What will the possible responses be for each survey or interview item?
 - 3) What is the level of measurement for each survey or interview item? Stating whether the item will yield a continuous or categorical response will suffice. If the response is open-ended, describe what information will be derived from the response.
 - b. Document analysis (private documents, official statistics, or public documents)
 - 1) Describe what specific information (data) will be sought.
 - 2) Describe specific details about how the data will be documented.
 - 3) What is the level of measurement for each survey item? Stating whether the item will yield a continuous or categorical response will suffice.

- c. Observation (non-obtrusive, participatory, of use of confederates)
 - 1) Describe what specifically will be observed (e.g., behavior, response to stimuli, personal interaction, and the like).
 - 2) Describe specific details about how the observations will be documented?
 - 3) What is the level of measurement for each observation?
Stating whether the item will yield a continuous or categorical response will suffice.