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**Research Proposal Assignment #3: Methodology, Part II**  
**Research Design, Variables, and Data Collection Instrument(s)**

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**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 C (Research Design) Part D (Variables) and Part E (Data Collection Instrument). 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 #3 for the proper formatting of the Research Design. Formatting of data collection instruments will vary.
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](mailto: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#3)
7. Your assignment is due on Monday, 04.06.09 by 11:59 PM.
8. Late assignments will incur a 5-point deduction, and will not be accepted after Tuesday, 04.07.09

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C. Research Design

1. Design: What specific type of research design do you propose to use and why?
2. Groups: Describe your groups (i.e., the levels of you IV). If you have more than just two groups, be sure to address them all.
3. Random assignment: Will you be utilizing random assignment? If yes, describe why and how you will do so. If no, describe why not. Keep in mind, random assignment is not the same as random selection!
4. If you cannot or will not be utilizing random assignment, matching would be a good alternative to use in an effort to ensure that your groups are as comparable as possible. Describe how you would go about matching your groups. Be sure you understand what matching is before addressing this item.
5. Data collection instrument(s):
  - a. Will you be utilizing a pretest? Why or why not?
  - b. Will you be utilizing a posttest? Why or why not?
  - c. What will be the specific purpose for each data collection instrument you propose to use?

- 6. Internal Validity (causal validity – see pages 186-191 of your textbook):
  - a. What threats to internal validity will you face?
  - b. How will you address these potential threats to internal validity?
- 7. Generalizability (external validity – see pages 191-195 of your textbook):
  - a. What generalizability issues will you face?
  - b. How will you address potential generalizability issues?
- 7. Ethical Issues: (see pages 60-65 of your textbook)
  - a. What ethical issues might you face in attempting to complete your study? Do not say that there are not any issues.
  - b. How will you address them?

D. Variables

- 1. State what independent variable(s), background variables, and dependent variable(s) you will attempt to measure. If applicable, include what groups each of your variables will be broken down into if they are categorical. Restate whether they are continuous or categorical.
  - a. Independent Variable(s)
  - b. Background Variables
  - c. Dependent Variable(s)
- 2. Discuss how you might determine the validity and reliability of your dependent variable(s). There are specific methods for determining validity and reliability, choose at least one for validity and at least one for reliability. You will need to explain how these tests would be carried out (see pages 83-88 in your textbook).

E. Data Collection Instrument(s)

On a separate page or pages, construct data collection instrument to measure and document data for your variables.

- 1. If a variable is categorical (independent, background, or dependent), all possible response choices should be pre-coded by assigning numbers to them starting with one. This should be done for each categorical variable for the purpose of expediting data entry.

**For example:**

Gender:     Male (1)       Female (2)  
 Ethnicity:  Caucasian (1)       African American (2)       Hispanic (3)

- 2. All items on a data collection instrument should be numbered.
- 3. Be sure that your data collection instrument, whether a survey, a coding form, or a list of interview questions, must encompass all of you proposed variables. A data collection instrument that is missing an item to measure a particular variable will be considered incomplete.
- 4. Attention to detail and neatness count, and you data collection instrument should be in “ready-to-go” form, meaning that it could conceivably be used immediately.