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**Research Proposal Assignment #2: Methodology, Part I  
Research Design and Sampling**

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**Instructions for Completion and Submission**

**Please note that the submission process is two-fold. All assignments must: (1) be e-mailed to the instructor as an attachment (see details below), and (2) be submitted to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). If both steps are not completed by the due date/time specified on your course schedule, your assignment will be considered late. Additionally, assignments which are not submitted to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) will not be graded.**

1. Begin your assignment with a statement of your hypothesis (or hypotheses).
2. 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 and/or incomplete sections. See Example Assignment #2 for the proper format.
3. This assignment must be completed in MS Word (\*.doc or \*.docx), MS Works (\*.wps), or as a basic rich text file (\*.rtf). Absolutely no other file formats will be accepted.
4. 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 as soon as possible.
5. Submit your assignment to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) by the date/time it is due.
6. Include your name and the name of the assignment in the file name (i.e., the file name you choose for the document). For example: YourName\_Assignment2
7. See your respective course schedule for the due date and time.
8. Due dates and times are firm. Late assignments will not be eligible for credit (i.e., points) without a legitimate and substantiated excuse. **Please note: All assignments must be completed in a timely manner to pass the course, regardless of whether or not you receive points for them.**

***Please* see the instructor or e-mail ([dkamedasjsu@aol.com](mailto:dkamedasjsu@aol.com)) in a timely manner if you are having trouble with this assignment. Always remember, there is no penalty for having questions. 😊**

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

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Hypothesis: State your hypothesis

**I. Research Design**

- A. Design: What specific type of research design do you propose to use and why?
- B. 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.
- C. 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!
- D. 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.
- E. Data collection instrument(s):
  1. Will you be utilizing a pretest? Why or why not?
  2. Will you be utilizing a posttest? Why or why not?
  3. What will be the specific purpose for each data collection instrument you propose to use?
- F. Causal (Internal) Validity (see pages 126-130 of your textbook):
  1. What threats to internal validity will you face?
  2. How will you address these potential threats to internal validity?
- G. Generalizability (external validity – see pages 130-131 of your textbook):
  1. What generalizability issues will you face?
  2. How will you address potential generalizability issues?
- H. Ethical Issues: (see pages 48-52; 170-171; 210-213; 240-241 of your textbook)
  1. What ethical issues might you face in attempting to complete your study?  
Do not say that there are no issues.
  2. How will you address them?

**II. Variables**

- A. Study Variables: 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.
  1. Independent Variable(s)
  2. Background Variables
  3. Dependent Variable(s)
- B. Discuss how you might determine the measurement 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 70-76 in your textbook).

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- III. Sample:** 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 many subjects (or other units of observation) will be included in *each of your groups*.
  - C. State what specific sampling method will be used to create your study groups, and explain how you would carry out your chosen sampling method (i.e., what steps would need to be taken?).
  - D. How would you ensure your sample is representative of the population you wish to study (ensuring the external validity of your findings)?
- IV. 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”.

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