

Proposal Exercise Assignment 3

The purpose of Assignment 3 is to get you to more carefully consider the broader issues in the journal article that you found and photocopied. Now that we have examined very technical aspects of how variables were operationalized and measured in your article (Assignment 2), I will ask you to analyze other technical aspects as well as more general ones. Seeing how the general aspects and the more technical one are related in a research article will provide insight into the nature of the process of research itself.

The purpose of the study

Briefly describe the purpose of the study. The purpose is the general goal not the specific hypotheses of the study. Usually, a researcher will try to articulate a big question which then is translated into a specific hypothesis. For example, a researcher may ask a broad question, like whether people's personality is related to their health. Such an interesting question represents the goal of a study, which may be operationalized into the rather specific and uninteresting hypothesis, "Do CPI (California Personality Inventory) scores relate to scores on the HIC (Health Inventory Checklist)?"

Measures of the IV, DV

Specify the independent and dependent variables of your study. If some extraneous variables were measured in order to rule them out, identify them as well. Comment on the scaling properties, reliability, and validity of each measured variable.

Hypothesis

Specify the hypothesis of the study. Remember, the hypothesis is an operationalized predictive statement of a relation between independent variable(s) and dependent variable(s).

Method

Briefly describe the participants of the study (commenting on who they are and how they were sampled) and the procedure (what was done with the participants). Only mention what you think are the really important aspects of the procedure.

Connections

Comment on how well the goals of the study, the hypothesis, and the method fit together. In your opinion, was the method the best one to test the hypothesis? Was the goal of the study best realized by testing the hypothesis that was tested? Was the method the best one to realize the goals of the study?