

Research Questions and Hypotheses Checklist

Use the following criteria to evaluate an author's research questions and/or hypotheses.

Look for indications of the following:

- Is the research question(s) a logical extension of the purpose of the study?
- Does the research question(s) reflect the best question to address the problem?
- Does the research question(s) align with the design of the study?
- Does the research question(s) align with the method identified for collecting data?

If the study is **qualitative**, does the research question(s) do as follows?

- Relate the central question to the qualitative approach
- Begin with *What* or *How* (not *Why*)
- Focus on a single phenomenon
- Use exploratory verbs
- Use nondirectional language
- Use an open-ended format
- Specify the participants and research site

If the study is **quantitative**:

- Do the descriptive questions seek to describe responses to major variables?
- Do the inferential questions seek to compare groups or relate variables?
- Do the inferential questions follow from a theory?
- Are the variables positioned consistently from independent/predictor to dependent/outcome in the inferential questions?
- Is a null and/or alternative hypothesis provided as a predictive statement?

- Is the hypothesis consistent with its respective research question?
- Does the question(s) and/or hypothesis specify the participants and research site?

If the study is **mixed methods**, do the research questions and/or hypotheses do the following?

- Include the characteristics of a good qualitative research question (as listed above)
- Include the characteristics of a good quantitative research and/or hypothesis (as listed above)
- Indicate how the researcher will mix or integrate the two approaches of the study
- Specify the participants and research site
- Convey the overall intent of the study that calls for a mixed methods approach