

Journal 10/29/18

Based on what you have researched so far, what do you think is a possible answer to your research question?

Explain your reasoning

Unit 2: Research Methods

Table of Contents

1. Unit 2 Table of Contents
2. Notes: Overview of Research Methods
3. Notes: Writing a Sociological Question
4. Research Project Part 1A
5. Research Project Part 1B
6. Notes: Writing the Purpose
7. Notes: Writing a Literature Review
8. Literature Review Prep
9. Notes: Peer Reviewed Journal
10. Notes: APA Formatting
11. Notes: Writing a Hypothesis

Writing a Hypothesis

Or Multiple

Abstract

Purpose

Literature Review

• **Hypothesis**

Methodology

Analysis

Conclusion

Hypothesis

- Prediction of what will be found at the outcome of a research project
 - typically focused on the relationship between two different variables studied in the research.
 - Usually based on both theoretical expectations about how things work, and already existing scientific evidence.

Connecting to Theory

- Theories are formulated within the literature review to explain, predict, and understand phenomena and, in many cases, to challenge and extend existing knowledge within the limits of critical bounding assumptions.
- The theoretical framework is the structure that can hold or support a theory of a research study.
- The theoretical framework introduces and describes the theory that explains why the research problem under study exists.

Theoretical Framework

- An explicit statement of theoretical assumptions allows the reader to evaluate them critically.
- The theoretical framework connects the researcher to existing knowledge.
- Guided by a relevant theory, you are given a basis for your hypotheses and choice of research methods.
- Forces you to address questions of why and how.
- A theoretical framework specifies which key variables influence a phenomenon of interest and highlights the need to examine how those key variables might differ and under what circumstances.

Hypothesis

- Within social science, a hypothesis can take two forms.
 - It can predict that there is no relationship between two variables (null hypothesis)
 - Or it can predict the existence of a relationship between variables (alternative hypothesis)
- In either case, the variable that is thought to either affect or not affect the outcome is known as the independent variable, and the variable that is thought to either be affected or not is the dependent variable.

Null Hypothesis

- A researcher has a null hypothesis when she or he believes, based on theory and existing scientific evidence, that there will not be a relationship between two variables.
- For example, when examining what factors influence a person's highest level of education within the U.S., a researcher might expect that place of birth, number of siblings, and religion would *not* have an impact on level of education.
- This would mean the researcher has stated three null hypotheses.

Alternative Hypothesis

- Taking the same example, a researcher might expect that the economic class and educational attainment of one's parents, and the race of the person in question are likely to have an effect on one's educational attainment.
- Existing evidence and social theories that recognize the connections between wealth and cultural resources, and how race affects access to rights and resources in the U.S., would suggest that both economic class and educational attainment of the one's parents would have a positive effect on educational attainment.
- In this case, economic class and educational attainment of one's parents are independent variables, and one's educational attainment is the dependent variable
- It is hypothesized to be dependent on the other two.

Forming a Hypothesis

- Whenever a hypothesis is formulated, the most important thing is to be precise about what one's variables are, what the nature of the relationship between them might be, and how one can go about conducting a study of them.

Hypothesis Statement

- If Then Statement
 - Shows cause and effect
 - Clearly identifies the dependent and independent variables
 - Ex. If a person has a college degree, then they are less likely to be convicted of burglary.
- Simple Hypothesis
 - Higher education lowers the likelihood of committing theft related crimes.
- Complex Hypothesis
 - Higher education and current employment lower the likelihood of committing theft related crimes.

Dependent Variables

- A dependent variable in sociology and other social sciences is the effect, the phenomenon affected or changed by other actions or phenomena.
- Examples of dependent variables in sociology include levels of crime or poverty in neighborhoods, racist attitudes, or order within a civil society.

Dependent Variables

- Sociologists often study the ways in which numerous programs, activities and other phenomena impact these and other dependent variables.
- For example, sociologists interested in crime may ask how certain factors affect urban crime rates.
 - In this example, urban crime rate is the dependent variable.

Independent Variables

- Independent variables are those factors, activities and other phenomena that change or affect the value or level of a dependent variable.
- A sociologist who studies criminal behavior may ask how lack of economic opportunity affects urban crime rates.
 - For such a study, lack of economic opportunity represents the independent variable, while urban crime rate is the dependent.

Unit 2 Research Project Part 4

Hypothesis

- As a group, write the Hypothesis section of your Research Project
- State your hypotheses, connect them to theory, identify the variables
 - 1-2 pages (must be typed, 12pt font, double spaced)
 - Turned in as one document on turnitin.com
 - Due Tuesday 11/6 @ 8:00am

Quantitative

- Hypotheses provide a causal explanation or propose some association between two variables.
- If the hypothesis is a causal explanation, it will involve at least one dependent variable and one independent variable.

Qualitative

- Hypotheses generally involve potential assumptions built into existing causal statements, which may be examined in a natural setting.

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What role do think Halloween plays in American society? How does it vary based on the group/age/sex/etc. of people?

Explain

Hypothesis Prep

- On a piece of lined paper (1 per group)
- Write your theoretical framework
- Write 2 or more hypothesis statements that are necessary to test in order to answer your research question.
- Define each variable
- Due at the end of the period