The purpose of this assignment is to have an in-depth examination and critique of a given approach to research. In small groups, (groups of 3 preferred), as assigned/organized by the instructor, your group will select one topic (see below) on a given approach to research. Each group must pick a different topic.  For this assignment, each group will be responsible for creating, presenting, leading, and maintaining discussions related to the topic (see list of topics below). Issues you will want to minimally discuss are: Your topic: defined and what it is; as well as when it is appropriate to employ the design, strengths, weakness, validity issues, and assumptions. Apply the method and issues to a problem/question and use practical examples to help illustrate understanding of the material. Each group will be responsible for leading the discussion on their topic area during weeks 10 and 11.

**Grading Rubric for Assignment 4 (Users Guide to Research Methods)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **Max. mark** | **Your mark** | **Grade** | **Exemplary** | **Proficient** | **Competent** |
|  |  |  |  | 90% to 100% | 74% to 89% | 66% to 73% |
| **Content accuracy and relevance** | 20 | 20 | Exemplary  (+++) | Covers topic in-depth with details and examples. Subject knowledge is excellent. | Includes essential knowledge about the topic. Subject knowledge appears to be good. | Partially proficient. Includes essential information about the topic but there are one or more errors factual errors. |
| **Definition**  Conceptual and operational definitions. | 20 | 20 | Exemplary  (+++) | Both definitions consistent with contemporary cited literature. | One of the definitions is consistent with contemporary cited literature. The other has some inconsistencies. | Both definitions have some inconsistencies with contemporary cited literature. |
| **Design**  Describe when is it appropriate to employ the design. | 20 | 20 | Exemplary  (+++) | Descriptions are fully consistent with commonly reported appropriateness in contemporary cited literature. | Descriptions are partially consistent with commonly reported appropriateness in contemporary cited literature. | Descriptions are minimally consistent with commonly reported appropriateness in contemporary cited literature. |
| **Strengths and weaknesses**  Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the selected design. | 20 | 20 | Exemplary (+++) | Descriptions are fully consistent with commonly reported strengths and weaknesses in contemporary cited literature. | Descriptions are partially consistent with commonly reported strengths and weaknesses in contemporary cited literature. | Descriptions are minimally consistent with commonly reported strengths and weaknesses in contemporary cited literature. |
| **Validity issues**  Describe threats to internal and external validity for this design and how they can be mitigated. | 20 | 20 | Exemplary  (+++) | Descriptions are fully consistent with commonly reported threats in contemporary cited literature. Mitigation of threats is well described. | Descriptions are partially consistent with commonly reported threats in contemporary cited literature. Mitigation of threats is partially described. | Descriptions are minimally consistent with commonly reported threats in contemporary cited literature, or mitigation of threats is not described. |
| **Assumptions**  Specifies the assumptions underlying the selected design. | 20 | 20 | Exemplary (+++) | Assumptions are fully consistent with those commonly reported in contemporary cited literature. | Assumptions are partially consistent with those commonly reported in contemporary cited literature. | Assumptions are minimally consistent with those commonly reported in contemporary cited literature. |
| **Application of the method and issues to a problem/question**  Briefly describes how the selected design could be applied to a specified problem. | 20 | 20 | Exemplary  (+++) | Clear description of how the selected design is applied to a specified problem, with excellent rationale. | Clear description of how the selected design is applied to a specified problem, with partial rationale. | Clear description of how the selected design is applied to a specified problem, or no rationale. |
| **Practical examples**  Links to examples of literature that use the selected design. | 20 | 20 | Exemplary  (+++) | All linked articles are exemplars for the use of the selected design. | Some linked articles are exemplars for the use of the selected design, the remaining examples are not particularly exemplary. | The linked articles are not particularly exemplary. |
| **Organization** | 20 | 20 | Exemplary  (+++) | Content is well organized, using headings (those given in the research guide) or bulleted lists to group related material. | Content uses headings or bulleted lists to organize, but the overall organization of topics appears flawed. | Content is logically organized for the most part. |
| **Aesthetic value** | 20 | 20 | Exemplary (+++) | Makes excellent use of font, color, graphics, effects, etc. to enhance the presentation. | Makes good use of font, color, graphics, effects, etc. to enhance the presentation. | Makes use of font, color, graphics, effects, etc. but occasionally these detract from the presentation content. |
| **Accuracy** | 20 | 20 | Exemplary  (+++) | No misspellings or grammatical errors. No web errors (e.g., broken links, missing images). | Some discussion of appropriateness of research methods to warrant claims. | Four or more misspellings and/or grammatical errors. No more than four web errors in the team's contribution to the site. |
| **Citations/References: Proper APA format**  (with exception that hanging indents are not mandatory) | 20 | 20 | Exemplary  (++) | All needed citations were included in the report. References matched the citations, and all were in APA format (6th ed.). The paper is double spaced in a 12-point serif font, has 1-inch margins, APA-style headings, and includes well-formed 6th ed. APA reference list for all citations. | Citations within the body of the report and a corresponding reference list were presented. Some formatting problems exist, or components were missing. The paper lacks some of the following features: double spacing, 12-point serif font, 1-inch margins, APA-style headings, or a nearly complete 6th ed. APA reference list. | Citations for statements included in the report were not present, or references which were included were not found in the text. The Final paper lacks several of the following features: double spacing, 12- point serif font, 1-inch margins, APA- style headings, or a nearly complete 6th ed. APA reference list. |
| Penalties or bonuses |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Totals | 240 | 240 |  |  |  |  |
| Percentages | 100% | 100% |  |  |  |  |
| Mark for this assignment | 25 | 25 |  |  |  |  |
| Grade for this assignment |  |  | Exemplary (+) |  |  |  |