What’s Your Study?

Purpose: to analyze and contrast the various types of research and apply the scientific method.

Select one of the two activities to complete.

Activity 1- Evaluating Research Reports

For this activity, you will need to select two (2) research reports. You may select from a supermarket tabloid, examples include Star, National Enquirer, National Examiner, Globe, etc. In addition, you may select from popular magazines, examples include: Psychology Today, Health, First, Women’s Day, Red Book, etc. Be certain that each selection contains at least one “research” report for analysis.

You are to select two (2) research reports- article from two separate magazines and complete an evaluation of the research by answering the following questions.

1. Is there a clear statement of a problem?
2. What is the hypothesis?
3. Was the study population clearly identified?
4. How was the sample selected, and was it adequate?
5. What was the independent variable?
6. What was the dependent variable?
7. Were all important extraneous variables identified?
8. How were extraneous variables controlled?
9. Was there a control group?
10. How were subjects assigned to the experimental and control groups?
11. Was the method of observation adequate to test the hypothesis?
12. Was there any evidence of bias in the procedure?
13. Are the conclusions based on accurate measuring and reporting of data?
14. Are the conclusions warranted?

Finally, prepare a summary of the research report and your evaluation of it.

- Can you depend on tabloids to report research findings in a complete and accurate way?
- How might inaccurate research reports be harmful?
- What was your learning from this activity?

Make sure to add a reference page citing your text and your sources.
Activity 2- Create Your Own Study
For this activity, you are to create your own study by following these steps. This is a fictitious study.

1. Write a research question about your topic.
2. Locate and read 3 sources, including information in your text on your topic. In 2-3 paragraphs, what did you learn about your topic? Make sure to cite your sources on a reference page which is the last page of this assignment.
3. Write your hypotheses.
4. What do you think you will find out, and why do you think this?
5. Create a survey, naturalistic observation, or experiment that will test your hypothesis. Write the method section of your research study (include if study requires: independent variable, dependent variable, control group, experimental group, who and how will you select your participants?). Make sure your methods are ethical.
6. Conduct your research by collecting your data to prove or disprove the hypothesis.
7. Conduct a simple data analysis. Make a table or graph of your findings.
8. Write out the results or findings.
9. What could you do differently, if you were to conduct this study a second time?
10. What did you learn by creating this study?

When finished conducting your study, respond to each question. Create a document with the question and your response. Make sure all documentation is in order when submitting, add all documentation, example: your survey, your table or graph, etc. Include a reference page.

Submit to the location in the course and to Turnitin.com.