

Guidelines for the for a Research Paper

Purpose: To investigate a research question that demonstrates the integration of knowledge of advanced nursing practice, scholarly inquiry, theory and data analysis. The guidelines below may apply to quantitative or qualitative research methodologies

I. Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the background of the study • Introduce the topic • Identify the research problem and target phenomenon • Describe significance of the study to nursing • State the purpose(s) of the study • List the study aims, research question(s) or hypotheses • Define terms (conceptual/operational definitions) (may come after II) • List assumptions (may come after II)
II. Conceptual Framework / Review of the Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify conceptual framework of study if appropriate • Summarize and critique relevant theoretical and empirical literature • Summarize what is known and not known about the selected area of study • Summarize findings and present rationale for the study
III. Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design: Identify the type of quantitative/qualitative research design • Setting: Describe the setting of the study • Sample: Describe the sample (participants) and inclusion criteria; Identify sample size as determined by power analysis (quantitative); Identify power level and effect size (quantitative) • Procedure: Describe the procedures for data collection • Instrumentation: Describe instruments including reliability/validity • Protection of human subjects: Discuss the process of protection of human subjects (IRB) • Data Analysis: Describe procedures for data analysis
IV. Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the characteristics or demographics of the sample/participants • Present results of data analysis • Describe method of coding data • Use tables/figures to present data, as appropriate • Describe how scientific rigor was established, maintained and tracked • Describe procedure for verification of data
V. Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss findings of study in relationship to purpose, hypotheses, or study questions • Relate findings to previous research and conceptual framework if applicable • Provide explanations for findings • Discuss conclusions of study • Identify implications for advanced nursing practice • Generate recommendations for future research • Identify limitations of study
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List all references cited in the paper
Appendices <i>(will vary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide letters of support, if applicable • Copy of IRB consent form, if applicable • Include documentation of site approval and permission for subject assess, if applicable • Include copies of Instruments