Research Paper Guideline
Research Methods II
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Your research project is an academic exploration of the topic of interest to you. As academic investigators in social sciences a research proposal is a formal presentation of a research topic you are interested in that reflects your knowhow and in-depth understanding of the subject. **The paper should be between 10-15 pages in length, double spaced, and formatted with Times New Roman (font size 12-). Please adequately cite your sources and include a list of references in APA style for Justice Studies proposals or ASA style for Sociology papers.**

The research paper you will be working on, uses data from the American Community Survey. It should typically comprise of the following segments:

1. A brief **introduction** of the research topic you are interested in should have the following components **(About 2 pages)**
   A. Your research rationale (why you believe the topic is important for investigation)
   B. The specific research question (s) you are looking at"

   E.g. How does education impact the income of full time workers in Rhode Island?

2. The second segment of the proposal comprises of **a substantive lit review** of the topic.
   A. In order to conduct a thorough review of literature, you will be consulting extensive academic sources available through the Adams Library including but not limited to e-resources **Soc Index and JStor**.
   B. Additionally, depending upon your research topic you will need to refer to E **Journals** in the Social Sciences. Click on the following link:
      - http://ric.libguides.com/AccessServices/articles.
      - Next click on the link for "Search Periodical and Journal List"
      - Click on the subject tab on the next page.
      - Choose social sciences
   C. You will find a **suitable sociological/criminological theory** that applies to your research You will retrieve articles that have used this theoretical approach to examine your research topic **- (2 pages)**
   D. You will explore **previous research** conducted on the subject **(6-8 pages).** You should specifically examine the background characteristics that determines your research question. For e.g. if you research deals with relationship between education and income, you will specifically look at research articles that has examined these attitudes. For instance, if gender, race, Hispanic origin, disability, age has impacted

income for full time workers in Rhode Island, then you will talk about each of these factors individually in different paragraphs. Ideally a paragraph long discussion on gender and income for instance, should lead to a well-informed hypothesis including:

H_1: Average income of full time women workers are less than average earnings of full time male workers.

    E. You should end the lit review segments with a summary of the major trends in literature and how you believe your research contributes to established research.

3. The **<u>methods section</u>** of your paper should comprise of the answers to the following questions in an essay based format. **About 2 Pages)**
(For more information on the American Community Survey Data please visit the website: https://usa.ipums.org/usa/acs_multyr.shtml)

Methods Outline:

    A. What is your data source?
    B. How was the sample collected (simple random, convenience, stratified etc.)?
    C. How large is the sample?
    D. Is your sample longitudinal or cross sectional?
    E. What are your dependent variables and independent variables?
    F. How were your dependent variables and independent variables specifically measured?
    G. What will be your technique of analysis?
    H. What do you expect to find?

4.   Findings sections **(4-5 pages)-** You should have at least three tables that discusses the measures of central tendency, percentages, bivariate associations, independent sample T test results.

Examples of Tables to be Included in your research paper

TABLE ONE: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF SELECTED VARIABLES

List of Variables	%	cf%	Measures of Central Tendency
Income			
0 and below			
1 to less than-15,000			
15,000 to less than 25,000			
25-000 to less than 50,000…			
Age			
Until 18			
18 -30…..			
Number of children			
1			
2			
3			
4….			
Gender			
Male			
Female			
Race			
Whites			
Blacks			
Asians			

TABLE TWO: ASSOCIATION BETWEEN INCOME AND RACE

Income	Race	
	Non Whites (%)	Whites (%)
Below 50,000		
Above 50,000		
Total	100%	100%

TABLE THREE. INDEPENDENT T TEST FOR SELECT PREDICTOR VARIABLES ON MEAN INCOME

	N	Mean	t	Sig
Gender				
Female				
Male				
Race				
Non Whites				
Whites				
Religion				
Non-Christians				
Christians				
Marital status				
Not married				
Married				
Have any children				
No				
Yes				

5.   Discussion **(2 pages)-** - This segment discusses the findings of your study—what does the data tell you? Is there an association between income and education? Does income also vary by other predictors? What are some of the data limitations? What will be some of the future directions of your research? How the research findings help your understanding of the relationship between education and income?