**Qualitative Research Evaluation Tool
for Articles in the Social Sciences**

Use this evaluation tool as a guide to help you:

1. Assess if you are looking at a research article (i.e., it has an abstract, doi number, lots of references to other academic articles, is in a peer-reviewed journal, has elements of the following research sections, etc.).
2. Evaluate the quality of the research article (i.e., in general—the more explicit these elements are addressed and detailed in the article, the more confidence you can have of its quality).

This tool is not intended to be comprehensive nor address all variations found within social science research. Nothing takes the place of learning how to assess and evaluate research through time, effort, and guidance—this checklist is intended to help in that process.

| **Front Matter** |
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| 1. Is the title focused and engaging?
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| 1. Does the author have qualifications to be a credible authority?
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| 1. Are there keywords that fit the study?
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| **Abstract** |
| 1. Is the purpose clear?
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| 1. Is the significance mentioned?
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| 1. Are the methodology and method stated?
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| 1. Is the sample and context mentioned?
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| 1. Is there a brief summary of results?
 |  |
| **Introduction** |
| 1. Is the problem that requires this research clear?
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| 1. Is there background information / literature to situate the problem in context?
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| 1. Are there explicit deficiencies in the literature?
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| 1. Is the significance, importance, or relevance for this study detailed?
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| 1. Is there a clear purpose or aim for this research?
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| 1. Are any theories, theoretical frameworks, or conceptual frameworks described and used?
 |  |
| 1. Is the role or proximity of the researcher to the topic or participants detailed?
 |  |
| 1. Does the author express his or her paradigm or worldview perspective taken to the research (e.g., constructivism, pragmatism, post-positivism, transformative, etc.)?
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| **Literature Review** |
| 1. Is there a section devoted to the (peer-reviewed) literature to contextualize the research?
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| 1. Does the literature provide various sides of an issue?
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| 1. Does the literature detail a gap that requires this research?
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| 1. Is the literature cited current (within 5 years of the article)?
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| 1. Are classic studies or authors in the research area referenced?
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| 1. Are there in-text citations with few or no direct quotes?
 |  |
| 1. Does the literature naturally build to the research questions?
 |  |
| 1. Are all in-text citations matched in the reference list?
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| 1. Is there a summary to help the reader understand take-aways?
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| **Methodology and Method** |
| 1. Is the research design (methodology and methods) described in detail?
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| 1. Is the research question(s) explicit and realistic?
 |  |
| 1. Is the methodology (e.g., case study, narrative inquiry, ethnography, grounded theory, etc.) detailed and appropriate for the research question?
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| **Data Collection** |
| 1. Is it clear how and why the participants were selected?
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| 1. Were ethical issues and consent addressed?
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| 1. Is the sample size adequate for the methodology?
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| 1. Were interview questions provided by the author?
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| 1. Were the data collections methods piloted?
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| 1. Is it clear how the data was collected from the participants?
 |  |
| 1. Was the setting for the participants described?
 |  |
| 1. Were the participants and setting appropriate to the research questions?
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| **Data Analysis** |
| 1. Were the steps in data analysis clearly described?
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| 1. Did the data analysis process flow from the methodology?
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| 1. If transcripts were involved, were they reviewed or confirmed by the participants?
 |  |
| 1. Was it clear how the themes or understandings developed?
 |  |
| 1. Was evidence of the data analysis demonstrated by quotes or other means so the reader can understand the process?
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| 1. Were limiters / delimiters identified?
 |  |
| **Discussion of Findings** |
| 1. Were key findings / themes organized and expressed?
 |  |
| 1. Was there evidence from the participants / sample to justify the findings?
 |  |
| 1. Do the findings answer the research?
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| **Implications / Next Steps** |
| 1. Are implications for practice identified?
 |  |
| 1. Are next steps for future research identified?
 |  |
| **References** |
| 1. Was there a Reference List?
 |  |
| 1. Did the items in the references match the in-text citations throughout the study?
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