

CONTENTS

Preface ix

Acknowledgments xiii

CHAPTER 1 How to Read and Critique Research 1

Understanding Numbers 2

 Deductive and Inductive Processes 4

 Intrinsic Value 4

The Political Context of Research 6

 Research Illustrations 7

 Numerical Literacy 10

Key Terms 10

Reflection Questions 11

Exercises 11

CHAPTER 2 Why Do Research? Questioning the Research Context 13

Who Produced the Research? 14

 Researchers' Home Institutions 14

 Funding Institutions 14

 Permission-Granting Institutions 15

What Is the Purpose of the Research? 17

What Are the Research Questions? 19

How Is the Research Justified? 19

Why the Research Context Matters 20

Key Terms	21
Review Questions	21
Reflection Questions	21
Exercise	22

CHAPTER 3	What Can We Know? Questioning Research Design	23
	What Is the Research Design?	23
	What Are the Internal Validity Concerns?	25
	Experimental Design	25
	Quasi-experimental Cross-sectional Design	26
	Quasi-experimental Longitudinal Design	28
	Case Study Design	30
	Questioning Research Designs	30
	Why Research Design Matters	31
	Key Terms	34
	Review Questions	35
	Reflection Questions	35
	Exercise	35

CHAPTER 4	Who Is the Research About? Questioning Selection Strategies	37
	Who or What Is the Subject of the Research?	38
	Vulnerable Populations	38
	How Are Subjects Selected?	39
	Probability Sampling	40
	Non-probability Sampling	41
	What Are the Limitations of the Sample?	42
	Why Selection Strategies Matter	44
	Key Terms	45
	Review Questions	46
	Reflection Questions	46
	Exercise	46

CHAPTER 5	What Is the Research About? Questioning Key Terms	47
	How Are Key Concepts Defined?	47
	What Do We Know about Key Variables?	49
	Measurement	49
	Assessment	51

	Why Definitions Matter	52
	Key Terms	54
	Review Questions	55
	Reflection Questions	55
	Exercises	55
CHAPTER 6	How Was the Research Conducted?	
	Questioning Research Implementation	57
	How Are Data Gathered?	57
	How Do Researchers Gain Access to Data?	60
	Deception	62
	Voluntary Participation	63
	Informed Consent	63
	Public Space	64
	How Do Researchers Document Their Observations?	65
	Recording Observations	65
	Confidentiality and Anonymity	66
	Why Research Implementation Matters	68
	Key Terms	70
	Review Questions	70
	Reflection Questions	70
	Exercise	70
CHAPTER 7	What Do We Know? Questioning	
	Analysis and Interpretation	73
	What Do We Know about Patterns across Variables?	73
	Significance	77
	Strength	79
	Causality	80
	What Do We Still Need to Know?	80
	Why Analysis and Interpretation Matter	82
	Key Terms	84
	Review Questions	85
	Reflection Questions	85
	Exercise	85
CHAPTER 8	Questioning Research	87
	Guideline of Questions	87
	Questioning the Research Context	87
	Questioning the Research Design	88

Questioning Selection Strategies	88
Questioning Key Terms	88
Questioning the Research Implementation	88
Questioning Analysis and Interpretation	89
Why the Political Context Matters	89

Glossary	91
References	97
Index	103