

Portfolio Component #3: Method Justification

ENG 113
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WHAT IS A METHOD JUSTIFICATION?

In this assignment, I ask you to write a method justification for your research portfolio. The method justification details the method(s) you will undertake to collect your data and argues for why this method(s) is the best choice for your project. Additionally, the method justification will describe in detail your instrument design and how each element of the instrument is intentionally designed to create/collect the data you need for your project.

THE ASSIGNMENT

Your 3-4 page method justification should provide a logical, well-reasoned argument for why you choose the method(s) you did and how these methods best suit your goals of your research project.

To succeed at this project, you need to clearly explain what you plan to do AND why you made the choices you did. While you want to demonstrate the logic behind your choices, you also need to support your choices with published research (Read: not websites) about how to do or design research. To assist you, there is a collection of resources available at:

Organization Your project should contain the following elements.

- General overview of your method(s) choice and its relation to the issue you are researching
- Detailed description of your methods that indicates the following:
 - Specific target population (who they are, how many, and why they were chosen, how you will recruit participants)
 - Instrument(s) you plan to use
 - Design of instrument (types of questions, organization of questions, experimental variables, interview procedures)
 - Reasons for your design (Why are you following this procedure, asking these questions, etc.? What data do you expect your procedures to produce and why is that data important to your research?)
 - Distribution method
 - How you plan to analyze the data you collect (Statistics, coding of non-numerical data, etc.)
- Argument for why this method(s) is the best for your project
- Limitations of your method(s) and other possibilities you considered and discarded

You will need to support your instrument design choices, your reasons for why this is the best method, and any limitations and rebuttals to those limitations with published research.

You must use at least 4 academic sources. Academic sources are professionally published books and articles from journals and trade magazines. In some cases, .edu and .gov sources may also be appropriate but you'll need to check with me first. Simply Googling "surveys" or "how to do an interview" will not be sufficient. Be sure to leave yourself plenty of time to do your research.

**You can also use the Library Guide from the Research Methods Presentations:
<http://libguides.trine.edu/methods>**

PORTFOLIO

This is the third component of your Research Portfolio and will explain your method(s) and why it is most appropriate for your project. It gives your project validity by showing that you know what information you need to answer your research questions and have done research about how to choose and design instruments to get that information.

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, March. 24	Method Justification for Teacher Review (Moodle)
Monday, Apr. 10	REVISED Version for Workshop (Moodle)
Wednesday, Apr. 26	LAST DAY to Submit Revision for teacher feedback (EMAIL ONLY)