Checklist for Evaluating a Research Report

- Although you will be submitting your critique electronically, each critique should be the equivalent of around 700 words maximum.
- All papers must be submitted electronically, via email.
- I will comment on your papers via email and email you your grade.
- As far as content goes, you should follow these guidelines below and cover as many of the points as you can.
- I would rather have you address a point as unknown than skip it entirely.
- From the critiquing guidelines you are expected to produce a cogent, synthesized analysis of the literature you have read.
- Due dates are listed in the syllabus.

Guidelines:

The Title
1. Is the title concisely stated?
2. Does the title convey the content of the study?

I. Introduction

A. Statement of the Problem
1. Is the problem significant?
2. Is the problem clearly and completely formulated?
3. Is the general scope of the study adequately presented?
4. Is the purpose of the study precisely stated?

B. Related Research
1. Is previous research related to the study presented by the investigator?
2. Is the cited research relevant to the study presented?
3. Is the previous research integrated instead of merely enumerated?
4. Is a succinct and meaningful summary presented?

C. Hypotheses or Questions
1. Are the hypotheses to be tested or the questions to be answered clearly stated?
2. Are the hypotheses stated in a form that permits them to be tested?
3. Are the hypotheses or questions superficial?

D. Assumptions and Delimitations
1. Are the assumptions underlying the study made explicit?
2. Are these assumptions reasonable?
3. What are other implicit assumptions the study made explicit?
4. Are these assumptions reasonable?
5. What are other implicit assumptions of the study that should have been made explicit?
6. How has the study been narrowed down?
E. Operational Definitions
   1. Are essential concepts or terms clearly defined or explained?
   2. Are the definitions or explanations meaningful?

II. Method

   A. Population and Sample
      1. Are the characteristics of the selected population and sample (size, source, nature, etc.) fully presented?
      2. Is the sampling method indicated?

   B. Research, Instruments and/or Apparatus
      1. Are the techniques employed (e.g. interview, questionnaire, apparatus, tests, etc.) clearly and fully described?
      2. Are the instruments or techniques appropriate for collecting the data?
      3. If tests were used, what evidence is presented regarding their rationale, reliability, and validity?

   C. Procedure
      1. Is the design or procedure clearly and fully reported?
      2. Is the statistical treatment of data discussed?
      3. Are appropriate statistical methods used in analyzing the data?
      4. Can the study be replicated?

III. Results and Conclusions

   1. Are the findings intelligibly reported in textual presentation?
   2. Are the conclusions logically drawn (i.e. based on the data presented)?
   3. Are tables and figures used appropriately?

IV. Discussion

   1. Are the findings discussed adequately and meaningfully?
   2. Does the investigator indicate the possible implications of the study?
   3. Are these implications meaningful?
   4. Are limitations of the study recognized?
   5. How severe are the limitations of the study?
   6. What are some other limitations that were not mentioned?
   7. Are any suggestions offered regarding avenues for further research?
   8. Are these suggestions worthwhile?
   9. What other suggestions should have been offered?

V. Summary

   1. Are the problem and methodology restated?
   2. Are the major findings, generalizations, implications, and limitations succinctly synthesized?

Communication

   1. Is the report well organized?
   2. Is the report well written?