

Eastern Kentucky University

Encompass

SWK 340: Social Work Research Methods OER Collection

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SWK 340: Exercise 4. Writing the Methods Section

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SWK 340 Exercise 4: Writing the Methods Section

Purpose: This assignment focuses on writing the methods section of your research proposal which includes choosing your sampling frame and study design and creating your data collection plan. This is an important part of the proposal because it provides the details on exactly how you will tackle the research problem and answer your research question.

Instructions: For Exercise 4, write out the full methods section of your research proposal following the headings as listed below. Suggestions for information to be included under each heading are provided. If you copy the headings from the exercise onto your paper, be sure to delete the instructions/suggestions and just keep the headings in the final version.

You typically don't need to cite many sources for this section. Be sure to include the revisions from feedback you received on Exercise 3 in the ethical considerations section. Use a new paragraph to address each subheading (sampling, design, etc.).

Submit your final proposal through the assignment link on Blackboard by the due date listed in the Course Schedule. Include a title page following [APA format for student papers](#).

Methods Section Outline:

Methods

Sampling Frame

- Describe the sampling approach you will use (examples: availability sampling, quota sampling, snowball).
- Define your sampling frame and any inclusion/exclusion criteria for participants in the study.
- Explain how you will recruit study participants (e.g., how, where, when, with what flyers/ads/emails).
- What is your goal for number of participants?

Study Design

- Describe the study design you will use (e.g., online survey, focus group, single-subject, classic experiment) and list the specific steps you will take from beginning to end to carry out your design.
- Talk about the data collection instruments or tools you will use to collect data. You will include an example of the instrument as an appendix of the final paper.

Ethical Considerations

- Incorporate the paragraphs from Exercise 3, including any revisions or edits suggested in the instructor's feedback on your assignment

Measures

- Explain the operational definition for your independent and dependent variables.
- Name at least two control variables you could use in your study and state why they are important.

Data Analysis

- If the data showed your hypothesis was true, what would you conclude?
- If the data showed your hypothesis was false, what would you conclude?
- What type of analysis would you most likely use with your data?

Critique of Methodology

- Describe the strengths and limitations of your approach to sampling, ethics, measures, and design.
- How generalizable will your results be to different populations? Why?

Implications and Conclusions

- Discuss how your study will benefit the discipline of social work, your target population, and how it will add to the literature on your topic.
- Describe how you plan to disseminate your research results to stakeholders and to expand knowledge about your topic.