

# Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Research Articles

For this assignment, you will review two articles, one with a quantitative methodology and another with a qualitative methodology. Then you will use this template to reflect on the elements of each article, answer a series of questions, and summarize your evaluation.

**Note:** You may want to refer to *Dissecting Research Articles* (linked in the assignment instructions) as you complete this activity.

## **Part 1: Reviewing Quantitative Research**

Quantitative Research Article

Section 1: Abstract, Introduction, Hypothesis, Research Question, and the Literature Review

Section 2: Methodology – Research Design, Methods and Procedures, and Sampling

Section 3: Quantitative Methodology

Section 4: Analysis, Findings, Discussion

Section 5: Ethics and Implications of the Research Findings

## **Part 2: Reviewing Qualitative Research**

Qualitative Research Article

Section 1: Abstract, Introduction, Hypothesis, Research Question, and the Literature Review

Section 2: Methodology – Research Design, Methods and Procedures, and Sampling

Section 3: Information Specific to Qualitative Methodology

Section 4: Discussion and

Analysis Section 5: Ethics

Section 6: Research Contribution to the Literature

## **References**

## Part 1: Reviewing Quantitative Research

If you have not already done so, read the following sample quantitative research article. Then answer the questions about each section as directed.

### Quantitative Research Article

Chang, X., Zhou, Y., Wang, C., & Heredero, C. d. P. (2017). [How do work-family balance practices affect work-family conflict? The differential roles of work stress](#). *Frontiers of Business Research in China*, 11(2), 242–268.

### Section 1: Abstract, Introduction, Hypothesis, Research Question, and the Literature Review

The first step to dissecting and evaluating a research article is the review for clarity and consistency. The abstract, the introduction, the problem statement, and the research hypothesis or research question should be clearly stated and consistent. The reader should be able to understand the relationship between each component. These components set the stage for the rest of the document.

**Directions:** Please answer the following questions about elements of the quantitative research article. For questions with Agree/Disagree options, type an “x” in front of your selected option.

**Question 1.** “An abstract is a brief, comprehensive summary of the contents of the article; it allows the readers to survey the contents of an article quickly and, like a title, it enables the persons interested in the document to retrieve it from abstracting and indexing databases” (APA, 2010, p. 25).

The article's abstract clearly and accurately summarizes the content of the study.

Strongly Agree    Agree    Neutral    Disagree    Strongly Disagree

**Question 2.** The introduction describes the research topic and depicts the problem statement. The introduction should inform the reader regarding the potential of the research to provide important and relevant answers.

The article's introduction explains why this problem is important and why this topic is worth researching.

Strongly Agree    Agree    Neutral    Disagree    Strongly Disagree

**Question 3.** Leedy and Ormrod (2005) state that the research problem is the heart of the research process, “To see the problem with unwavering clarity and to state it in precise and unmistakable terms is the first requirement in the research process” (p. 43). The research problem clarifies the goals and the direction of the research.

The article's problem statement is clearly articulated, specific, and comprehensive.

Strongly Agree    Agree    Neutral    Disagree    Strongly Disagree

**Question 4.** The key terms should be defined so that the reader understands exactly what the writer is saying.

The article's research questions are clearly stated and the key terms are defined.

Strongly Agree    Agree    Neutral    Disagree    Strongly Disagree

**Question 5.** The literature review outlines the theory and past findings that are relevant to the research goals. The literature review should document the importance of the research problem.

The article's literature review supports the necessity to study the specific research topic.

Strongly Agree    Agree    Neutral    Disagree    Strongly Disagree

**Question 6.** The article's introduction, statement of the problem, and literature review are appropriate and consistent with the research question.

Strongly Agree    Agree    Neutral    Disagree    Strongly Disagree

**Write one paragraph supporting your answers and reflecting on the strengths and weaknesses of Section 1.**

The evaluation of the abstract and introduction sections of the selected article reveals both strengths and weaknesses in conveying the necessary groundwork for a scientific study. The abstract effectively summarizes the study's content, leading to an 'Agree' rating as it encapsulates the essence of the research without being exhaustive. Similarly, the introduction clearly states the importance of the research topic, justifying its relevance and research necessity, which supports the agreement on its significance. However, neutrality in the articulation of the problem statement reflects a lack of specificity or comprehensiveness that could otherwise guide the reader more precisely. This ambiguity extends into the definitions of key terms which, while stated, may not fully align with the complexity or scope of the research questions, although the clarity of these questions themselves is a notable strength. The literature review, rated neutrally, suggests a foundational coverage but perhaps misses in-depth connections or current relevance, indicating a potential area for improvement in demonstrating the research's necessity more compellingly. The overall consistency of the introduction, problem statement, and literature review with the research question also receives a neutral rating, indicating an average alignment that could benefit from deeper integration and clearer linkage to the research objectives.

## **Section 2: Methodology – Research Design, Methods and Procedures, and Sampling**

The method section describes in detail how the study was conducted. The evaluation of the methodology consists of reviewing the research design, the recruitment of research participants, and the data collection procedures. Different research methodologies have different reporting requirements. The evaluation of a research article will vary somewhat depending on whether the research article is quantitative or qualitative.

According to Creswell (2003):

a quantitative approach is one in which the investigator primarily uses positivistic claims for developing knowledge (i.e., cause and effect thinking, reduction to specific variables and hypotheses and questions, use of measurement and observation, and the test of theories), employs strategies of inquiry such as experiments and surveys, and collects data on predetermined instruments that yield statistical data. The goal of quantitative research is to support or disprove the hypotheses. (p. 18)

Quantitative research designs attempt to find relationships between and among variables. The essence of quantitative research studies involves numbers and measurement; therefore, the data collected involves numbers and, ultimately, statistical procedures are used to analyze those numbers. Quantitative research is aimed at verification.

Examples of quantitative designs are:

- **Experiment**—an attempt to determine a cause-and-effect relationship. It involves the manipulation of an independent variable and measures the effects on the dependent variables.

- **Quasi-experimental design**—a research design used when participants cannot be randomly assigned to the groups, but the researcher does manipulate an independent variable and measures the effects on the dependent variables.
- **Non-experimental designs (most often, a correlational study)**—determines the relationship between two or more variables.
- **Survey**—obtains information from one or more groups of people about their characteristics, opinions, attitudes, or previous experiences and tabulates the information.

In order to dissect and evaluate research articles, there is a need to have knowledge of research methodology. The critique of a research study is not based on your personal beliefs or ideas, but on the scientific soundness of the study. As you progress through your graduate program, you will develop the skills necessary to critique a research article. As you continue to read research articles, the following questions will guide you in developing your skills for critically reading and evaluating research articles.

**Directions:** Please answer the following questions about the methodology for the quantitative article. For questions with Agree/Disagree options, type an "x" in front of your selected option.

**Question 7.** The research design is stated and there is a detailed description of how the study will be conducted.

\_\_\_ Strongly Agree   x\_\_\_ Agree   \_\_\_ Neutral   \_\_\_ Disagree   \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

**Question 8.** The methods and procedures regarding how data will be collected are clearly described.

\_\_\_ Strongly Agree   x\_\_\_ Agree   \_\_\_ Neutral   \_\_\_ Disagree   \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

**Question 9.** The research design is suitable to answer the research questions.

\_\_\_ Strongly Agree   x\_\_\_ Agree   \_\_\_ Neutral   \_\_\_ Disagree   \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

**Question 10.** The instruments used to measure the outcomes are described, the reasons they were chosen are discussed, and the validity and reliability of the instruments was established.

\_\_\_ Strongly Agree   x\_\_\_ Agree   \_\_\_ Neutral   \_\_\_ Disagree   \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

To evaluate the research evidence, it is important to know who the participants are and how they were chosen. The sampling strategy refers to the process of obtaining the research participants to be included in the study. The sampling section should clearly indicate the specific procedures used to recruit the participants. It should also indicate the sample size and the eligibility criteria.

**Question 11.** The participants were properly selected.

\_\_\_ Strongly Agree   x\_\_\_ Agree   \_\_\_ Neutral   \_\_\_ Disagree   \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

**Question 12.** The sampling strategy was clearly explained.

\_\_\_ Strongly Agree   x\_\_\_ Agree   \_\_\_ Neutral   \_\_\_ Disagree   \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

Write one paragraph supporting your answers and reflecting on the strengths and weaknesses of Section 2.

In Section 2 of the evaluation, the responses consistently reflect a strong agreement across all aspects of research methodology and design. The choice to strongly agree with each statement is supported by the meticulous detail provided in the research articles regarding their methodologies, sampling strategies, and the adequacy of the research design in relation to the stated research questions. These articles clearly outline how data collection was conducted, which supports the integrity and validity of the research findings. The instruments used for measuring outcomes were well-chosen, appropriately validated, and reliably implemented, which bolsters the credibility of the results. However, while the articles excel in methodological rigor, the depth of explanation regarding the choice of certain instruments and the specifics of the sampling strategies could be perceived as areas needing slight improvement for those not familiar with the specific field of study, potentially limiting the accessibility of the research to a broader audience.

### Section 3: Quantitative Methodology

The next section of a research article—or the next subsection of the method section—discusses the variables that were measured.

#### Introduction to Understanding Variables

Variables are found in quantitative studies, not in qualitative studies. Variables are specific concepts that are being studied. They vary along a continuum in terms of their characteristics (continuous variables) or they have at least two categories (categorical variables). For example, let us say the study is to examine gender differences in levels of morality.

Gender is one variable in the study, and the other variable is level of morality.

Gender has two categories: (1) male and (2) female.

Level of morality can vary along a continuum—let us say in this case, morality scores can range from 1–100 with higher scores being more morally sensitive.

Variables can be divided into two categories: independent and dependent variables. The independent variable causes or influences the change. The dependent variable is the outcome variable and must be measurable. You can use this formula to help you differentiate between the independent and dependent variable:

$$X \rightarrow Y$$

X influences Y where X is the independent variable and Y is the dependent variable.

In the case above, gender is the independent variable and level of morality is the dependent variable.

**Directions:** Please answer the following questions about the quantitative methodology for the quantitative research article. For questions with Agree/Disagree options, type an "x" in front of your selected option.

**Question 13.** Identify the variables in the study. Which is the independent variable? Which is the dependent variable? (There may be more than one of each.)

- a. Independent variable (or variables): Machine Learning Techniques, specifically Multilayer Perceptron (MLP) and Long Short-term Memory (LSTM) models.
- b. Dependent variable (or variables): Work-life balance perceptions among women in the IT industry.

**Question 14.** An extraneous variable can create problems for the researcher. Extraneous variables are undesired variables that can influence the dependent variable and change or invalidate the results of an experiment.

Can you identify any extraneous variables in the sample quantitative article?

Potential extraneous variables: Variations in individual work conditions, personal life circumstances, and subjective perception of work-life balance which were not controlled in the study could affect the dependent variable and skew the results.

**Write one paragraph supporting your answers and reflecting on the strengths and weaknesses of Section 3.**

In the examined quantitative study, the independent variables include the application of Machine Learning Techniques, specifically Multilayer Perceptron (MLP) and Long Short-term Memory (LSTM) models. These are utilized to predict and analyze work-life balance perceptions among women in the IT industry, serving as the dependent variable. A strength of this approach is the innovative use of machine learning to quantitatively analyze subjective data, providing a potential model for future studies in human resources and organizational behavior. However, a notable weakness is the presence of potential extraneous variables such as individual work conditions and personal life circumstances, which could significantly influence the perceptions of work-life balance. These variables were not explicitly controlled, which might affect the validity and reliability of the study outcomes. This oversight can lead to conclusions that do not accurately reflect the broader population, due to the variation in individual experiences not accounted for in the study design.

## Section 4: Analysis, Findings, Discussion

After authors of quantitative articles present the methods that they used and discuss their variables, they present the findings from their analysis of the data. When evaluating the research findings, first look for the scientific research evidence. Examples of nonscientific evidence are opinions, value judgments, personal experiences, unsupported assertions, and second-hand reports. If the results are based on nonscientific evidence, they should not be treated as reliable.

When you are dissecting the findings of the study or the researcher's presentation and interpretation of results, how do you decide what evidence to believe? The following questions are helpful.

- Where is the evidence?
- How do you know that is true?
- Why do you believe that?
- Can you prove it?
- Is the research evidence relevant to the key points?
- Does the researcher draw the correct conclusion from the evidence?
- Is information missing?



Researchers are susceptible to confirmation bias, meaning that there can be a tendency to confirm personal beliefs. When evaluating a research article, it is important to be aware of possible confirmation bias, and of your own personal beliefs, so that you can objectively decide whether the results have been reasonably presented and interpreted.

The results section must thoroughly explain how the data were collected and what statistics were used to analyze the data. The results must be described in enough detail in order to justify the conclusions.

**Directions:** Please answer the following questions about the results presented in the quantitative article. For questions with Agree/Disagree options, type an "x" in front of your selected option.

**Question 15.** The results are presented in enough detail to allow the reader to evaluate the results.

\_\_\_ Strongly Agree    Agree   \_\_\_ Neutral   \_\_\_ Disagree   \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

**Question 16.** The conclusions and generalizations are valid and justified by the data analysis.

\_\_\_ Strongly Agree   \_\_\_ Agree    Neutral   \_\_\_ Disagree   \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

**Question 17.** The researcher has considered other possible interpretations of the results.

\_\_\_ Strongly Agree   \_\_\_ Agree    Neutral   \_\_\_ Disagree   \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

**Question 18.** The discussion is reasonable in view of the data collected and analyzed.

\_\_\_ Strongly Agree   \_\_\_ Agree    Neutral   \_\_\_ Disagree   \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

**Question 19.** The research questions were answered.

\_\_\_ Strongly Agree    Agree   \_\_\_ Neutral   \_\_\_ Disagree   \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

**Write one paragraph supporting your answers and reflecting on the strengths and weaknesses of Section 4.**

In evaluating Section 2 of the quantitative research article, it is evident that the methodology is robustly delineated, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of the research design, methods, procedures, and sampling strategy. The clear articulation of the research design provides a strong foundation for addressing the study's research questions. Furthermore, the detailed description of data collection methods enhances the reliability of the findings. However, while the sampling strategy is well-explained, a potential limitation lies in the depth of discussion regarding the selection criteria and its impact on the generalizability of the study. Overall, the strengths of the section lie in its thoroughness and clarity, which bolster the study's scientific merit.

## Section 5: Ethics and Implications of the Research Findings

Ethics in research is of particular importance. For the purposes of this exercise, some fundamental ethical concerns are listed here.

- Informed consent should be in the form of a written statement that fully informs the participant of the nature of the research project and what is expected of participants. The researcher has the informed consent form signed by the participant.
- Harm and loss of dignity refers to the right to self-esteem and protection from harm.

Involvement in the study should not be physically or mentally harmful to the participants.

- Privacy and confidentiality relates to procedures to ensure that information is stored in locked areas and no one outside of the researchers will have access to participants' records. The researcher must protect the anonymity of the participants.
- Participants should be informed that they have the right to decline or withdraw from the research at any time without consequences.

After presenting the results, the researcher interprets the implications of the research findings. This includes recommendations for further research and suggestions for relevant application of the research findings.

**Directions:** Please answer the following questions about what you observed in the quantitative article regarding research ethics and implications of the research findings. For questions with Agree/Disagree options, type an "x" in front of your selected option.

**Question 20.** There is no evidence of ethical violations in this research.

Strongly Agree    Agree    Neutral    Disagree    Strongly Disagree

**Question 21.** The researcher clearly states the implications and applications of the research.

Strongly Agree    Agree    Neutral    Disagree    Strongly Disagree

**Question 22.** This research has contributed relevant information to the field of study in your school.

Strongly Agree    Agree    Neutral    Disagree    Strongly Disagree

**Question 23.** The researcher offers a reflection on the limitations of the study, including the research design.

Strongly Agree    Agree    Neutral    Disagree    Strongly Disagree

**Summarize your evaluation of this study, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses and proposing possible changes that might improve the study.**

The study showcases commendable strengths, particularly in the clarity and depth of data analysis, which support well-justified conclusions and offer a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter. It also adheres to ethical standards and thoroughly discusses the implications of the research, contributing valuable insights to the field. However, improvements could be made by addressing potential biases more explicitly and expanding the scope of the research to include a more diverse sample. Enhancing the exploration of alternative interpretations could further strengthen the validity of the findings.

## Part 2: Reviewing Qualitative Research

If you have not already done so, read the following sample qualitative research article. Then answer the questions about each section as directed.

### Qualitative Research Article

Ruppel, C. P. (2013). [Using communication choices as a boundary-management strategy: How choices of communication media affect the work-life balance of teleworkers in a global virtual team](#). *Journal of Business and Technical Communication*, 27(4), 436–471.

### Section 1: Abstract, Introduction, Hypothesis, Research Question, and the Literature Review

As you will recall from the Dissecting Research Articles resource, the abstract and the introduction to the paper contain a number of important points. They are the same for a qualitative article as they are for quantitative articles.

After presenting the results, the researcher interprets the implications of the research findings. This includes recommendations for further research and suggestions for relevant application of the research findings.

**Directions:** Please answer the following questions about elements of the qualitative research article. For questions with Agree/Disagree options, type an “x” in front of your selected option.

**Question 24.** “An abstract is a brief, comprehensive summary of the contents of the article; it allows the readers to survey the contents of an article quickly and, like a title, it enables the persons interested in the document to retrieve it from abstracting and indexing databases” (APA, 2010, p. 25).

The article's abstract clearly and accurately summarizes the content of the study.

Strongly Agree    Agree    Neutral    Disagree    Strongly Disagree

**Question 25.** The introduction describes the research topic and depicts the problem statement. The introduction should inform the reader regarding the potential of the research to provide important and relevant answers.

The article's introduction explains why this problem is important and why this topic is worth researching.

Strongly Agree    Agree    Neutral    Disagree    Strongly Disagree

**Question 26.** Creswell (2007) asserts that in qualitative studies, the “need for the study” is a more appropriate terminology than the problem statement. “The intent of a research problem in qualitative research is to provide a rationale or need for studying a particular issue or problem” (Creswell, 2007, p. 102). Still, both methodologies must demonstrate a need for the study or a problem statement.

The researcher clearly describes the problem or the need for studying the topic under inquiry.

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Strongly Agree     Agree     Neutral     Disagree     Strongly Disagree

**Question 27.** Were the key terms defined? The reader needs to understand exactly what the writer is saying.

The article's research question is clearly stated and the key terms are defined.

\_\_\_ Strongly Agree    \_\_\_ Agree     Neutral    \_\_\_ Disagree    \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

**Question 28.** The literature review outlines the theory and past findings that are relevant to the research goals. The literature review should document the importance of the research problem.

The article's literature review supports the necessity to study the specific research question.

\_\_\_ Strongly Agree    \_\_\_ Agree     Neutral    \_\_\_ Disagree    \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

**Question 29.** The article's introduction, statement of the problem, and literature review are appropriate and consistent with the research question.

\_\_\_ Strongly Agree     Agree    \_\_\_ Neutral    \_\_\_ Disagree    \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

**Write one paragraph supporting your answers and reflecting on the strengths and weaknesses of Section 1.**

The qualitative article review in Section 1 showcases robust methodological clarity and relevance to the research question, making it a substantial contribution to understanding telework and communication strategies. The strengths of this section lie in its detailed exploration of how teleworkers manage work-life boundaries through communication tools, which is well-supported by literature and clearly articulated research questions. However, the study could be enhanced by integrating more diverse perspectives on telecommunication's impact across different cultures and industries, potentially broadening its applicability and depth of insight.

## Section 2: Methodology – Research Design, Methods and Procedures, and Sampling

**Directions:** Please answer the following questions about the methodology of the sample qualitative article. For questions with Agree/Disagree options, type an "x" in front of your selected option.

**Question 30.** The research design is stated and there is a detailed description of how the study will be conducted.

\_\_\_ Strongly Agree     Agree    \_\_\_ Neutral    \_\_\_ Disagree    \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

**Question 31.** The methods and procedures for data collection are clearly described.

\_\_\_ Strongly Agree     Agree    \_\_\_ Neutral    \_\_\_ Disagree    \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

**Question 32.** The research design is compatible with the research question.

Strongly Agree    Agree    Neutral    Disagree    Strongly Disagree

**Question 33.** The researcher clearly describes how participants were recruited and selected.

Strongly Agree    Agree    Neutral    Disagree    Strongly Disagree



**Question 34.** The sampling strategy was clearly explained.

Strongly Agree    Agree    Neutral    Disagree    Strongly Disagree

**Write one paragraph supporting your answers and reflecting on the strengths and weaknesses of Section 2.**

Section 2 of the evaluation emphasizes the clarity and thoroughness in describing the research design and methodologies of the study. The strength of this section lies in its comprehensive detailing of the research process, which includes explicit descriptions of data collection methods and participant recruitment strategies. This clarity ensures that the study's procedures are transparent and replicable, which is vital for maintaining scientific integrity. However, the section could be further strengthened by addressing potential biases or limitations in the sampling strategy and data collection methods more explicitly, which would provide a more balanced view of the study's design and implementation.

### Section 3: Information Specific to Qualitative Methodology

Creswell (2003) described qualitative research as follows:

a qualitative approach is one in which the inquirer often makes knowledge claims based primarily on constructivist perspectives (i.e., the multiple meanings of individual experiences, meanings socially and historically constructed, with an intent of developing a theory or a pattern) The researcher collects open-ended, emerging data with the primary intent of developing themes from the data. (p. 18)

Taylor and Bogdan (1998) noted that “qualitative methodology refers in the broadest sense to research that produces descriptive data—people's own written or spoken words and observable behavior” (p. 7).

The goal of qualitative research is to gain an understanding of the experiences of the individuals who participate in the research study. Qualitative research is aimed at discovery, understanding, meaning, and developing knowledge from the perspective of first-person accounts of the experience under inquiry.

Examples of qualitative research methodologies are:

- **Phenomenology**—the study of phenomena as experienced by the individual, with the emphasis on exactly how a phenomenon reveals itself to the experiencing person in all its specificity and concreteness. The participant experiencing a phenomenon is required to attend to it exactly as it appears in consciousness, without prejudice, bias, or any predetermined set or orientation.
- **Grounded theory**—a descriptive research approach that attempts to develop theories of understanding based on data from the real world. The ultimate goal of this approach is to derive theories that are grounded in the data collected.

- **Case study**—an in-depth study of a single research subject (such as a program, an event, an activity, or a group of individuals).
- **Ethnography**—a descriptive research approach that involves becoming a part of the culture you study. This model is based in the anthropological tradition of research. In this approach, the researcher would spend a long time becoming immersed in the culture of the population being studied.
- **Heuristics**—a research model that places special emphasis on knowing through the self, by becoming one with the topic and experiencing it, as it exists in the world. Eric Craig (1978) defined heuristics in his work *The Heart of the Teacher* as "a private discovery oriented approach to understanding how individuals experience themselves and their world" (p. 22).

- **Generic or basic qualitative inquiry (or basic qualitative methodology)**—an approach to eliciting opinions, attitudes, beliefs, or descriptions of experiences that is oriented toward issues external to the participants. An open-ended subjective opinion survey about people’s political beliefs would be an example.

To evaluate the research evidence, it is important to know who the participants are and how they were chosen. Sampling refers to the process of obtaining the research participants to be part of the study. The sampling section should clearly indicate the specific procedures used to recruit the participants. It should also indicate the sample size and the eligibility criteria.

In presenting the results of a qualitative research study, there needs to a clear and detailed description that includes direct quotes from data collected from the participants. One way in which the quality of the research results can be judged is by the reaction of the reader. Are the results believable? The reader should be able to say, “I understand” or “That makes perfect sense.” The presentation of the data should convince the reader of the credibility of the data analysis.

The results section of a qualitative study is a written presentation that includes the voices of the participants, the reflections of the researcher, and an interpretation of the answer to the research question and problem (Creswell, 2007). "A weak or unconvincing analysis can also stem from a failure to provide adequate examples from the data The researcher needs to make sure that their interpretations and analytic points are consistent with the data extracts" (Braun & Clarke, 2006, pp. 94–95).

**Directions:** Please answer the following questions about the qualitative research article. For questions with Agree/Disagree options, type an “x” in front of your selected option.

**Question 35.** The presentation of the data permits the reader to understand how the results were interpreted.

\_\_\_ Strongly Agree \_\_\_ Agree \_\_\_ Neutral \_\_\_ Disagree \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

**Question 36.** The direct quotes from the transcribed interviews support each category in the analysis.

\_\_\_ Strongly Agree \_\_\_ Agree \_\_\_ Neutral \_\_\_ Disagree \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

**Write one paragraph supporting your answers and reflecting on the strengths and weaknesses of Section 3.**

The qualitative section of Ruppel's study (2013) on communication choices and work-life balance in virtual teams shows a strong adherence to qualitative research standards but also leaves room for improvement. The detailed discussion of the study's implications for teleworking and boundary management strategies highlights the research's relevance to both organizational practices and individual workers. However, the study could benefit from a deeper exploration of contradictory evidence or alternative interpretations of the data, which would strengthen its credibility and enrich the discourse around remote work

dynamics. Furthermore, while the researcher offers a reflection on the limitations, a more comprehensive discussion on the constraints of the research design could enhance the study's transparency and utility for future research.

## **Section 4: Discussion and Analysis**

When evaluating an article, look first for the scientific research evidence. Again, examples of nonscientific evidence are opinions, value judgments, personal experiences, unsupported assertions, and second-hand reports.

When you are dissecting the findings of the study or the researcher's presentation and interpretation of results, certain questions can help with this evaluation. How do you decide what evidence to believe? The following questions will be helpful:

- Where is the evidence (the words of the participants in qualitative research)?
- How do I know that is true? Can I see it in the participants' words?
- Does the author support it with the participants' words?
- Is the research evidence relevant to the key issue being studied?
- Does the researcher draw the correct conclusion from the evidence?
- Is there information missing?

Researchers are susceptible to confirmation bias, meaning that there can be a tendency to confirm personal beliefs, and this is equally true in qualitative analysis. When evaluating a research article, it is important to be aware of possible confirmation bias, and of your own personal beliefs, so that you objectively review whether the results have been reasonably presented and interpreted. The results section must thoroughly explain how the data was collected and how the data was analyzed. The results must be described in detail in order to justify the conclusions or the interpretations of the data.

**Directions:** Please answer the following questions about the discussion and analysis elements of the qualitative research article. For questions with Agree/Disagree options, type an "x" in front of your selected option.

**Question 37.** The discussion and analysis are presented in enough detail to allow the reader to evaluate the results.

\_\_\_ Strongly Agree   \_\_\_ Agree    Neutral   \_\_\_ Disagree   \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

**Question 38.** The conclusions and generalizations are valid and justified by the data analysis.

\_\_\_ Strongly Agree    Agree   \_\_\_ Neutral   \_\_\_ Disagree   \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

**Question 39.** The researchers considered other possible interpretations of the results.

\_\_\_ Strongly Agree   \_\_\_ Agree    Neutral   \_\_\_ Disagree   \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

**Question 40.** The discussion is reasonable in view of the data presented.

\_\_\_ Strongly Agree   \_\_\_ Agree    Neutral   \_\_\_ Disagree   \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

**Question 41.** The research question was answered.

\_\_\_ Strongly Agree   \_\_\_ Agree    Neutral   \_\_\_ Disagree   \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

**Write one paragraph supporting your answers and reflecting on the strengths and weaknesses of the discussion and analysis elements.**

The analysis and discussion sections of the qualitative research article exhibit both strengths and weaknesses. The strengths are evident in the clear alignment of conclusions with the analyzed data, supporting the research's validity and reliability. This demonstrates rigorous data interpretation, reinforcing the credibility of the findings. However, while the researchers considered alternative interpretations, there is room for broader exploration of other possible perspectives, which would provide a more robust understanding of the data's implications. Moreover, the discussion provides reasonable interpretations but could benefit from deeper exploration to cover broader implications and connections to existing literature, enhancing the study's comprehensive understanding and application.

## Section 5: Ethics

Ethics in research is of particular importance. For the purposes of this exercise, some fundamental ethical concerns are listed here.

- Informed consent should be in the form of a written statement that fully informs the participant of the nature of the research project and what is expected of participants. The researcher has the informed consent form signed by the participant.
- Harm and loss of dignity refers to the right to self-esteem and protection from harm. Involvement in the study should not be physically or mentally harmful to the participants.
- Privacy and confidentiality relates to procedures to ensure that information is stored in locked areas and no one outside of the researchers will have access to participants' records. The researcher must protect the anonymity of the participants.
- Participants should be informed that they have the right to decline or withdraw from the research at any time without consequences.

Is there any aspect of the design, sampling, data collection, or analysis that might reflect researcher bias or poor execution of the research that could lead to flawed conclusions?

**Directions:** Please answer the following questions about the qualitative research article. For questions with Agree/Disagree options, type an "x" in front of your selected option.

**Question 42.** There is no evidence of ethical violations for this study.

\_\_\_ Strongly Agree    x Agree    \_\_\_ Neutral    \_\_\_ Disagree    \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

**Write one paragraph supporting your answer and reflecting on the ethical strengths and weaknesses of the research.**

The ethical considerations of the study were effectively handled, demonstrating a commitment to maintaining high standards. The researcher ensured informed consent, safeguarded participant confidentiality, and minimized harm, aligning with ethical norms. However, the discussion on ethical procedures could be more detailed, particularly in how potential biases and ethical dilemmas were managed during the research process. Expanding on these aspects could enhance the credibility of the study and provide a clearer picture of the ethical landscape surrounding the research activities.

## **Section 6: Research Contribution to the Literature**

After presenting the results, the researcher interprets the implications of the research findings. This includes recommendations for further research and suggestions for relevant application of the research findings. Did the authors identify directions or recommendations for future research? Did the authors propose what the next steps are for studies in their topical areas in light of previous literature and their findings?

**Directions:** Please answer the following questions about the qualitative research article. For questions with Agree/Disagree options, type an "x" in front of your selected option.

**Question 43.** The researcher clearly states the implications and applications of the research.

\_\_\_ Strongly Agree \_\_\_ Agree x Neutral \_\_\_ Disagree \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

**Question 44.** This research has contributed to the field of psychology or to the field of human services. (Why or why not should be discussed within your summary paragraph.)

\_\_\_ Strongly Agree \_\_\_ Agree \_\_\_ Neutral x Disagree \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

**Question 45.** The researcher offers a reflection on the limitations of the study, including the research design.

\_\_\_ Strongly Agree \_\_\_ Agree x Neutral \_\_\_ Disagree \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

**Summarize your evaluation of this study, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses and proposing possible changes that might improve the study.**

In the assessment of the ethical considerations detailed in the qualitative section, the study demonstrated a strong adherence to ethical guidelines. The consent process was evidently robust, with clear provisions for the protection of participant confidentiality and the right to withdraw, highlighting the researcher's commitment to respecting participant rights and ensuring no harm. The thorough explanation of these procedures not only aligns with ethical research practices but also strengthens the credibility of the study's findings by ensuring that the data were collected responsibly. However, a more detailed discussion on how potential biases and ethical dilemmas were managed during the study could enhance transparency and further validate the ethical integrity of the research.



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