## Checklist: Criteria for Critiquing a Research Report

### Step 1. The Problem
- **Is the problem clearly and concisely stated?**
- **Is the problem adequately narrowed down into a researchable problem?**
- **Is the problem significant enough to warrant a formal research effort?**
- **Is the relationship between the identified problem and previous research clearly described?**

### Step 2. Literature Review
- **Is the literature review logically organized?**
- **Does the review provide a critique of the relevant studies?**
- **Are gaps in knowledge about the research problem identified?**
- **Are important relevant references included?**

### Step 3. Theoretical or Conceptual Framework
- **Is the theoretical framework easily linked with the problem (or does it seem forced)?**
- **If a conceptual framework is used, are the concepts adequately defined, and are the relationships among these concepts clearly identified?**

### Step 4. Research Variables
- **Are the independent and dependent variables operationally defined?**
- **Are any confounding variables present? If so, are they identified?**

### Step 5. Hypotheses
- **Are the hypotheses clear, testable, and specific?**
- **Does each hypothesis describe a predicted relationship between two or more variables included in each hypothesis?**
- **Do the hypotheses logically flow from the theoretical or conceptual framework?**

### Step 6. Sampling
- **Is the sample size adequate?**
- **Is the sample representative of the defined population?**
- **Is the method for selection of the sample appropriate?**
- **Is any sampling bias in the chosen method acknowledged?**
- **Are the criteria for selecting the sample clearly identified?**
**STEP 7. RESEARCH DESIGN**

- Is the research design adequately described? __________
- Is the design appropriate for the research problem? __________
- Does the research design address issues related to the internal and external validity of the study? __________

**STEP 8. DATA COLLECTION METHODS**

- Are the data collection methods appropriate for the study? __________
- Are the data collection instruments described adequately? __________
- Do the measurement tools have reasonable validity and reliability? __________

**STEP 9. DATA ANALYSIS**

- Is the results section clearly and logically organized? __________
- Is the type of analysis appropriate for the level of measurement for each variable? __________
- Are the tables and figures clear and understandable? __________
- Is the statistical test the correct one for answering the research question? __________

**STEP 10. INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS**

- Does the investigator clearly distinguish between actual findings and interpretations? __________
- Are the interpretations based on the data obtained? __________
- Are the findings discussed in relation to previous research and to the conceptual/theoretical framework? __________
- Are all generalizations warranted and defended? __________
- Are the limitations of the results identified? __________
- Are implications of the results discussed? __________
- Are recommendations for future research identified? __________
- Are the conclusions justified? __________