

CONDUCTING SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Presenter Name



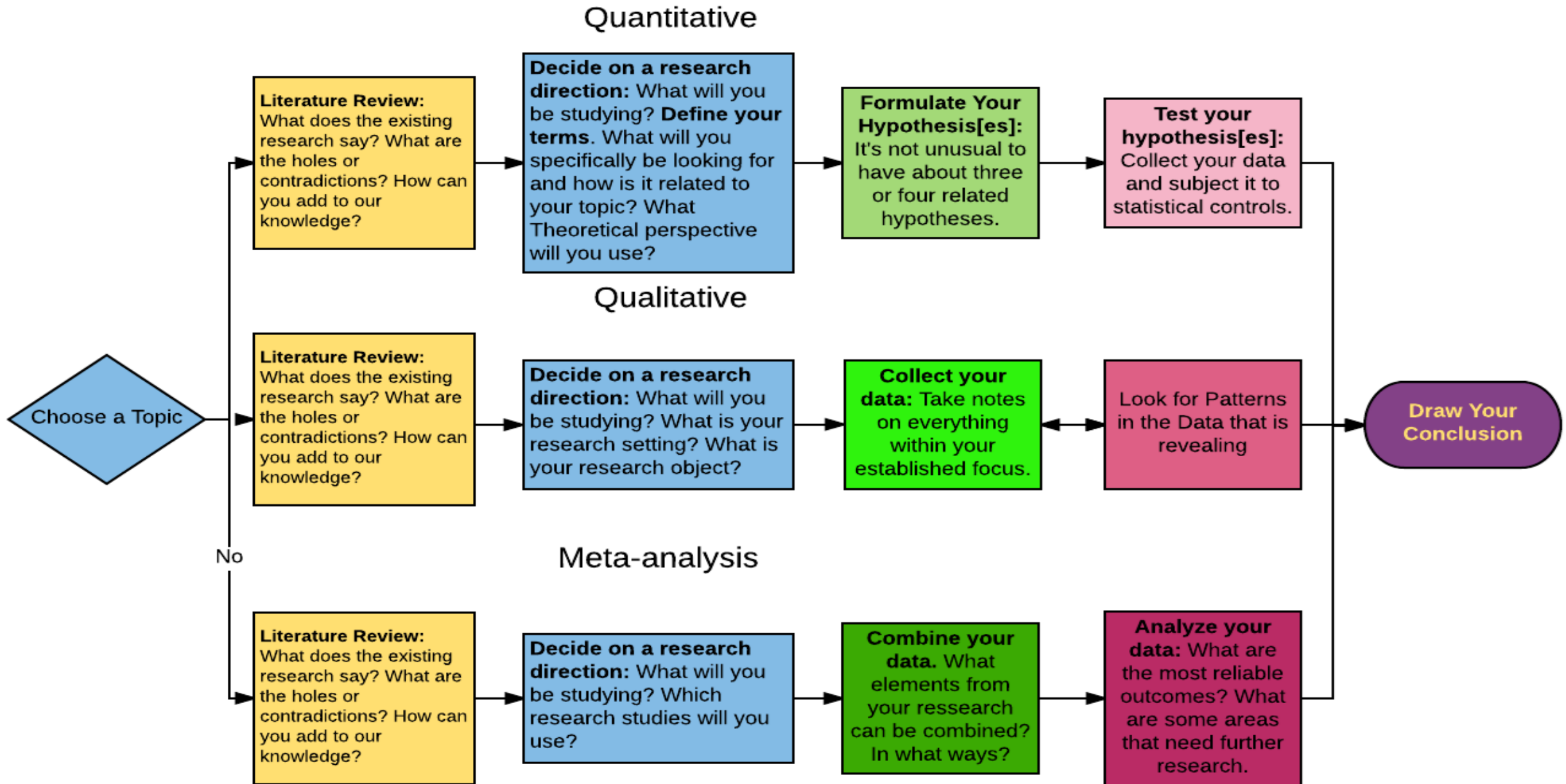
COMPONENTS OF YOUR QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH PAPER

Quantitative Paper		
Abstract	Brief, summary of the research	1 ¶
Introduction	Brief explanation of the research focus, why you are conducting the research, theoretical perspective	2-3 ¶
Literature Review	Summary of the existing literature.	3-4 ¶
Defining Terms	What are your variables? How are you categorizing your data and why?	2-4 ¶
Data-Methods	Step by step description of your process and why you are using this process?	2-4 ¶
Results	Data tables and samples and a brief summary of what they mean	Tables Charts Description
Discussion	Summary of the conclusions that you can make using your data, limitations to your study and suggestions for further study.	2-3 ¶

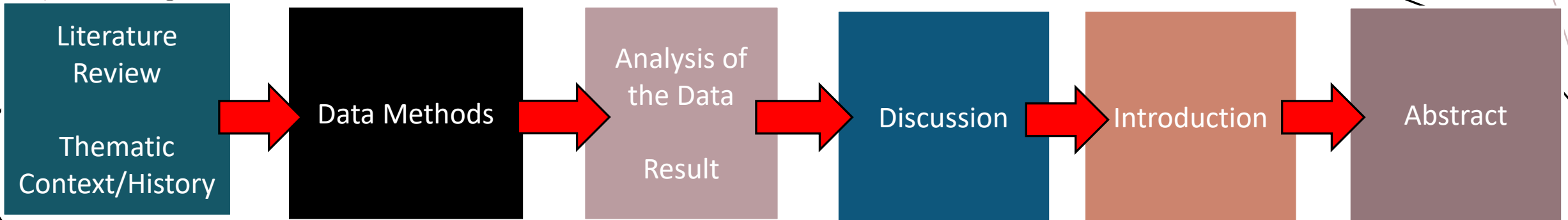
COMPONENTS OF YOUR QUALITATIVE RESEARCH PAPER

Qualitative Paper		
Abstract	Brief, summary of the research	1 ¶
Introduction	Brief explanation of the research focus, why you are conducting the research, theoretical perspective	2-3 ¶
Theoretical Background	Summary of the existing literature. Description of the background and context of the issue	3-4 ¶
Defining Terms	The recurring themes you observed, how you are categorizing them. Do they confirm, contradict or supplement the existing research?	2-4 ¶
Data-Methods	Step by step description of your process and why you are using this process?	2-4 ¶
Results	Explanation of your categories and samples that validate these categories.	Samples from your research notes
Discussion	Summary of the conclusions that you can make using your data, limitations to your study and suggestions for further study.	2-3 ¶

Research Process



WRITING PROCESS



Keep updating your Works Cited Page as you go along.

RESEARCH PROJECT: STEP 1: GETTING STARTED

1. Choose a Partner
2. Choose a Topic of Interest
3. Start Planning



DEDUCTIVE METHOD

- BRAINSTORM POSSIBLE HYPOTHESES
- STRATEGIZE WAYS TO TEST THESE HYPOTHESES.
- COME UP WITH A RESEARCH STRATEGY
- COME TO ME AND LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU ARE THINKING

INDUCTIVE METHOD

- BRAINSTORM POSSIBLE SETTINGS
- WHAT WILL BE ELEMENTS YOU WILL BE OBSERVING OR LOOKING FOR?
- COME UP WITH A RESEARCH STRATEGY
- COME TO ME AND LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU ARE THINKING

Hagan, John, and Ruth D. Peterson, eds. 1995. *Crime and Inequality*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Observations:

Quotes and Page Number

I'm still a believer in old-school note cards, but you can do online versions of this. I used the cards as my bookmarks, that way, no matter where I was, I could take notes and not have to worry about running out of battery. Since I was doing qualitative research, when I was finished taking notes, I could lay them on my floor and sort them into categories. That became my outline. This is one of many ideas you can use to organize your information. Above is the source that I'm reading written in ASA citation.

Citing Your Sources

A study reported on the Upshot Blog points out, “...even when treated at the same hospital and using the same protocol, those from high-income families fared better than those from poorer families.” (Miller, Kliff, and Buchanan 2023).

According to Claire Cain Miller, in a study reported on Upshot Blog, “...even when treated at the same hospital and using the same protocol, those from high-income families fared better than those from poorer families.” (2023)

According to Miller, Kliff, and Buchanan on the Upshot Blog, high income families have better outcomes than poor families, even when treated in the same hospital.(2023)

Miller, Claire Cain, Sarah Kliff, and Larry Buchanan. 2023. “Childbirth is Deadlier for Black Families Even When They’re Rich, Expansive Study Finds.” *The New York Times Upshot Blog*, February 12, Retrieved February 13, 2023.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/02/12/upshot/child-maternal-mortality-rich-poor.html>

YOUR LITERATURE REVIEW

You don't want to reinvent the wheel:

What has already been explored? What are some directions that can still be taken?

Focus on academic sources

Academic publications: Sociology, Psychology, Anthropology, Criminology,
Demography

Research Organizations

Universities

Peer Review

State agencies

Be careful with Think Tanks

Following the citations

Once you decide upon a research direction, you don't want to just jump in and design your research model. The first step in this process is performing what is called a literature review.

You want to go out and find everything that has been written on your topic already. You don't want to reinvent the wheel and do a study that was already done. You are looking for areas that have not yet been explored...there are plenty.

You then summarize the existing literature in a literature review. This is the first thing you write. As you continue your research, you will find more sources, so you will always be revising the literature review.

WRITING YOUR DATA METHODS SECTION

Include:

Precise explanation of how you are collecting the data

Benefits of the method you chose

Weaknesses of the method you chose

Explain why your method is better than others

Description of your target population and research setting

Once the data comes in

Description of those who responded

Express the population size in terms of “n”. In other words, if you have 50 respondents then $n=50$.

Once you have done your literature review and are comfortable with what you want to study, you need to design the study. You then write up your study design in the Data Methods section.

All of this is an ongoing process, and you are working on your rough draft. As you go along, you will be constantly tweaking this section...especially if you are doing qualitative research.

WRITING UP YOUR RESULTS

This is science, folks. Nobody should be expected to **trust** your results. You have to show them the data.

This is easier to do with quantitative research than it is for qualitative research.

Quantitative Research

Show data tables with the demographic information that you collected. How many people responded? What do you know about their backgrounds.

Data should be represented as tables and graphs.

Qualitative Research

Explain the trends and patterns that you saw in your research. It's a good idea to have a subsection for each trend or pattern defined under a category. Include direct quotes and/or examples from your observations and/or interviews that demonstrate the validity of your category. If possible, include full transcripts in your appendix.

At some point, you have collected enough data that you are comfortable drawing a conclusion...or you've just run out of time. I usually gave my students a week to collect their data, including a weekend for my qualitative folks to spend time in their research setting. This is where you write up your results. This is pure observation at this point. You are not offering an interpretation of the data in this section.

CONCLUSION/DISCUSSION

Your conclusion discussion is where you want to present your analysis of the data.

You also want to explain the limits of your study and offer suggestions for future studies that your research points to.

Further, you want to be able to explain why this research was important.

A conclusion is **NOT** a restatement of your introduction!

Components

1. Summarize the conclusions you can draw from your observations/ data
2. What might be some inferences you can make from your observations/ data
 1. What might be some suggestions for future research that could nail down these inferences
3. What are conclusions you could not draw from your data or directions you did not take in your study
4. What are some of the weaknesses of your study and what are some things that can be done by a future researcher to deal with those weaknesses?
5. Why is your study important?

BACK TO THE BEGINNING

The Introduction

- Explain the purpose of your paper. Why is this topic important?
- Explain your research question.
- Explain your theoretical approach
- Explain your research process.
- Explain your hypotheses [quantitative], patterns identified [qualitative].
- Define the terms that you are using.
- A brief summary of the conclusions that you have drawn

Abstract

A paragraph that summarizes the entire research project, including conclusions.

Although it is the first thing someone reads when looking at your research, it is actually the last thing you are going to write. Once the research is done, you can use this section to describe the relevant processes you went through and decisions you made to decide upon the research model. You can introduce your topic and explain your hypotheses and why you choose them. Qualitative researchers can describe the research setting and the categories they are using to explain the data. You want to define the terms you are using. Of course, it is in the introduction that you introduce the theoretical perspective you are using (testing or adapting)

Then you write the abstract. The abstract is the first thing people see. It is a brief description of the research, including your conclusions. If I'm reading a journal, I don't want to read every research paper. The abstract should tell me everything I need to know. If it is interesting to me, I read the rest.

NOTES, CITATIONS, AND BIBLIOGRAPHY PAGES

The very back of the research paper is any notes that are tangential to the study, but you want your readers to know. A good rule of thumb is, if it's important, put it in the body of your paper. Minimize the amount of notes that you offer.

Your citations and bibliography. Include everything that you used in writing your research. This is important to avoid plagiarism. If you got an idea when you read W. E. B. Dubois, then you have to give him credit for that idea. He should be listed on your citations page, and his idea should be cited in the text. See the example I gave under the note cards.



DONE !

There you go. You are done. Unfortunately, we don't spend a lot of time teaching you guys how to do research projects. This puts you at a disadvantage when it comes to college. It's important to know the process.