

Quantitative vs. Qualitative: Methods

No matter your discipline, the methods section of your research paper is one of the most important. A few important parts of this section are outlined below. Your paper may not include all of them.

Design - the type of paper and data collection

- “This study aims to... using a _____ research design.”
- Experimental vs. non-experimental

Quantitative:

- Correlational analysis
- Cause & effect (experimental)
- Causal-comparative/Quasi-experimental (non-experimental)

Qualitative:

- Case study
- Historical research
- Grounded theory

Participants - the people that the research focuses on

- Location description/ Book, film, or show
 - Avg Income, suburb/urban, population count
- Age group/Author
- Number of participants/chapters analyzed

Quantitative:

- Used to give context
- Used to analyze trends in data
- Helps to diverge different populations
- Identifies limitations

Qualitative:

- Used to give context
- Identifies limitations

Procedure - the ways in which data is collected

Quantitative:

- Every step you took
- Data collection
- Calculations
- Trend identification
- Manipulation of data
- Data representation

Qualitative:

- Every step you took
- Data collection
- Annotations/Coding
- Trend identification
- Grouping
- Data Representation

Instruments (not required for all papers)

Quantitative: Used to collect numerical data to be analyzed.

Ex: Survey, Questionnaire, etc.

Qualitative: Used to formalize the collection of written data.

Ex: Journals, Interviews, Annotations, etc.

****ALL SECTIONS:** Defending *why* you chose **each part** of your method is a very important part of this section! For example, in the case of participants, if you chose to include high school females only, explain why this would be beneficial to your results. Also consider including parts of your method that are intentionally *discarded*. (ex. “I chose *not* to do _____ because...”)