

ScWk 298
Section 5
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Review of Research Questions, Hypotheses and Purposes of Literature Review for the 298 Paper

I. Research Questions and Hypotheses

1. When should I use research questions? Hypotheses?

Purpose of Research	Research Question?	Hypothesis?
Descriptive	Yes	No
Explanatory	Yes	Yes
Evaluative	Yes	Yes
Qualitative/Exploratory	Yes	No

2. What are research questions like for qualitative studies? *It depends on the qualitative approach:*

- a. Narrative research: **What in Dorothy’s description of her childhood might explain her current homelessness?**
- b. Phenomenological research: **What is the shared experience of homeless men and women who use shelter services?**
- c. Grounded theory: **What would explain why some homeless people use shelters while others do not?**
- d. Case study: **How would Joe describe day to day living in shelters and on the street?**
- e. Ethnographic: **Is there a shared set of rules governing how homeless people interact with each other on the street?**

3. What if I use both quantitative and qualitative methods?

4. How many research questions and/or hypotheses?

5. What makes a good hypothesis?
 - a. The hypothesis is a single sentence
 - b. Name two variables (an IV and DV, preferably in that order) and indicate expected relationship (plus control variables if multi-variate)..
 - c. In evaluative research, the treatment is always the primary IV. **Children who receive peer tutoring will show improved more behavioral control than children who do not receive peer tutoring, controlling for type of learning problem.**
 - d. Include the target population in the hypothesis: **For adults with depression, baseline level of self esteem is positively correlated with improvement of symptoms.**
 - e. Consistent statement of comparisons between two groups, when applicable **Adults with depression who complete a 10-week CBT group will show more improved outcomes than the comparison group receiving treatment-as-usual.**
 - f. Don't include statistical statements
6. Where do research questions and hypotheses go in the paper?
7. How do I address research questions and hypotheses throughout the paper (Lit review, Methods, Results, Discussion)?

II. Purposes of Literature Review

1. Establish and justify the topic
2. Review what's already been done
3. Identify relevant methods
 - a. Sampling and recruitment procedures
 - b. Variables and measurement
 - c. Analysis strategies
4. Understand context of others' findings
 - a. Limitations of previous research
 - b. Recommendations for further research
 - c. Implications for practice and policy