

Quick Checklist: Avoiding Common Research Methodology Mistakes

Use this worksheet to tick off each item as you progress through your research.

Before Data Collection

■	Research question clearly stated
■	Methodology matches question
■	Sample size justified
■	Instruments validated
■	IRB approval obtained
■	Pilot testing completed

During Data Collection

■	Following protocol consistently
■	Documenting any changes
■	Protecting participant confidentiality
■	Checking for saturation (qualitative)

During Analysis

■	Using appropriate statistical tests
■	Checking assumptions
■	Triangulating findings (qualitative)
■	Considering alternative explanations

When Writing Up

■	Honest about limitations
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■	Transparent about methods
■	Appropriate claims (no overclaiming)
■	Clear about what you can/can't conclude