

# MY PHD RESEARCH METHODOLOGY CHECKLIST

One fine day as a driven PhD scholar I found myself battling with the assignment of writing a thorough research methodology for my thesis in the bustling town of Academia. My dissertation topic required extreme accuracy and originality. Equipped with fervor and an extensive to-do list I entered this cerebral conflict with the intention of laying strong groundwork for my future research. I welcome you, my fellow academics and inquisitive minds to travel with me as I address each component of my research methodology. As we work through this checklist together and make sure our approaches are as solid as the academic goals that motivate us mark off your own accomplishments.

## 1 Define the Research Problem Clearly

- Have I identified a clear and focused research question? Yes  No
- Does this problem address a significant gap in the current knowledge base? Yes  No

## 2 Establish Research Objectives

- What are the specific objectives that will guide my investigation? Yes  No
- Are these objectives achievable and measurable? Yes  No

## 3 Choose an Appropriate Research Design

- Have I selected a research design that aligns with my research questions (qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods)? Yes  No
- Does this design help in achieving the objectives and answering the research questions? Yes  No

## 4 Develop a Research Hypothesis (if applicable)

- Based on my preliminary literature review, what hypotheses am I proposing? Yes  No
- Are these hypotheses testable within the scope and resources available to me? Yes  No

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### Conduct a Thorough Literature Review

- Have I reviewed recent and relevant literature? Yes  No
- Does my literature review provide a strong foundation for my research hypothesis and methodology? Yes  No

### Select the Sampling Technique and Criteria

- What sampling method will I use (random, stratified, cluster)? Yes  No
- Have I defined clear inclusion and exclusion criteria for my sample? Yes  No

### Determine Data Collection Methods

- Which methods will I use to collect data (surveys, interviews, experiments)? Yes  No
- Have I designed or selected reliable tools and instruments for data collection? Yes  No

### Plan for Data Analysis

- What statistical tools or software will I need for analyzing the data? Yes  No
- Have I planned for a pilot study to test my data collection methods and analysis? Yes  No

### ○ Ensure Ethical Considerations are Addressed

- Have I obtained necessary approvals from the Institutional Review Board (IRB)? Yes  No
- Are there consent forms prepared, and do they cover all necessary ethical concerns? Yes  No

### ○ Prepare a Realistic Timeline

- Have I allocated enough time for each phase of the research? Yes  No
- Is the timeline realistic, considering potential obstacles and delays? Yes  No

### ○ Budget Planning

- Have I calculated a detailed budget covering all possible expenses? Yes  No
- Have I identified potential funding sources or grants? Yes  No

### ○ Validate the Methodology

- Have I sought feedback on my methodology from my supervisors or peers? Yes  No
- Am I prepared to defend my chosen methodology in terms of its rigor and alignment with the research objectives? Yes  No

### ○ Prepare for Potential Challenges

- What are the potential risks and challenges in my methodology? Yes  No
- Have I planned contingency measures for these challenges? Yes  No

## Document Everything

- Am I keeping detailed records of all research activities? Yes  No
- Are my data collection and analysis processes well-documented to ensure replicability? Yes  No

Using this checklist, I can systematically approach each critical component of my research methodology, ensuring nothing is overlooked. This careful planning is not only pivotal for the credibility of my study but also vital for achieving my PhD objectives.



**PHD ASSISTANCE**  
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