



Best Practices for Teaching Research Methods in an Online Learning Environment

Gabrielle Blackman, Ph.D.

Graduate School of Psychology

Kaplan University

gtarmy@kaplan.edu

(757) 254 - 2275

What is your background?

- A) I teach online courses.
- B) I teach research methods courses.
- C) All of the above.
- D) None of the above.



Research Methods

- We have substantial objectives:
 - Terminology
 - Methods
 - Critical analysis
 - Application
 - Advanced skill acquisition
 - Ethical sensitivity



Research Methods

- It can be overwhelming for students.
- Anxiety provoking*



* Rapp-McCall and Anyikwa (2016)



Strategies – Seminar Workshops

- Consider introducing mini-workshops into seminars and meetings.
- Focus on skill-based areas, for example:
 - Identifying variables
 - Developing hypotheses
 - Developing explanations
 - Establishing the population
- Provide feedback
- Provide encouragement
- Students learn from the variety and feedback

SAMPLE

Step 3: State your hypothesis

H_1 There is a significant correlation between
[independent/predictor variable] and
[dependent/criterion variable].

Provide further explanation
regarding what you expect
to see.



Strategies - Templates

- Consider using writing templates for research papers.
 - Research shows that writing templates are effective in other areas.*
 - We use templates in Research Methods at KU.
 - Increase student confidence.

*Akdemir and Eyerci (2016)



Strategies – Field Trips

- Class field trips are an engaging way to explore and apply course concepts
- Examples:
 - Ted Talks Video Lessons and Talks
 - [Philip Zimbardo](#)
 - [Nicolas Perony](#)
 - Online Databases and Statistics
 - www.census.gov
 - www.worldvaluessurvey.org
 - www.pewresearch.org

Strategies – Connections

- Connect the course content to their professional work and/or goals
 - How will they use their new knowledge, skills, and abilities in the field?
 - Scholar-Practitioner model





Strategies – Application and Engagement

- Using approaches that increase student engagement are particularly important.
- Hoffman (2014)
 - Students use real data
 - Project centered; application at the start
- Rapp-McCall and Anyikwa (2016):
 - One-on-one contact
 - Synchronous sessions
 - Active learning strategies

Discussion

- What are some challenges that you have faced in the classroom when teaching research methods online?
- What are some ways that you facilitate student learning and skill acquisition in research methods?

References

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Thanks for Coming!!

