CJ-300 Research Methods of CJ

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Scientific Method

Research is a crucial undertaking that is used by scientists to systematically investigate a phenomenon and answer a particular question. A research project usually aims at understating a particular problem that the scientist is interested in and from which they are to provide solutions to a problem (Osterburg, 2000). Scientists come up with theories and hypotheses that are usually tested in a research project using various approaches. Scientific method in psychological studies is an approach used in conducting a research study in order to understand the psychological aspects of a study group or population in which the researcher is interested in. A psychological research projects usually aims at understanding the behavioral patterns of a particular study population with respect to the cognitive and biological properties. Scientific method helps a researcher to conduct the research in a systematic manner.

The approach starts by derivation of educated guesses that will provide the fundamentals for the hypotheses and the study variables which will be measured. The research can collect data through an experimental study or case study description while testing the theories. Writing the report is considered a crucial part in scientific research that involves documenting the research exercise that will discuss the findings of the research. In order for a researcher to document the findings, they need to conduct a background study on the topic which in chosen. The background study analyses the problem from which the research project is based and also provide a justification for the need of the research undertaking (Nuzzo, 2014). The background analysis is considered as the beginning of a research report and usually comes in the first chapter to provide the goals and objectives of the research. A literature review of similar research and theory justification is also reported in the second chapter of a report as well as the research gap.

The research report will document the research methodologies used in data collection and analysis in the third chapter. The researcher discusses the findings of the data collection process in details using various data presentation and analysis methods such as tables, charts and graphs (Richard, 2013). The results of the study are used to justify the theory or reject the hypothesis.

**References**

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Osterburg, J. W. (2000). The scientific method and criminal investigation. *Journal of Police Science and Administration*, *9*(2), 135–142.

Richard, T. (2013). *Qualitative versus quantitative methods: Understanding why qualitative methods are superior for criminology and criminal justice*.

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## Header 2

# References