**Results/Discussion Critique**

*SOC 4881 – Population Studies Research Practicum*

**DUE**

*April 15*

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Complete this assignment on your own.

You will be assigned to read one “results and discussion section” of a paper written by another group. I will share with you (via the class website) your assigned methods section on April 8.

Each group will have to improve their results and discussion sections before moving forward, and they will do so based on feedback from you (and me). In this assignment, your objective is to provide detailed, constructive, and critical (but respectful) feedback to the group whose results and methods section you will read.

Use the attached worksheet to provide your feedback. On it, address the following questions:

1. ***Did they follow the group assignment instructions?***

The group was required to update their front end and methods sections. Then, they were supposed to include a Results section of about 2,000 words in which they described their empirical results. Finally, they were supposed to include a Discussion section of about 1,500 words in which they interpreted their findings. They should also attach their tables/figures and references.

Did they follow these instructions? If not, what needs to improve?

1. ***Does the Results section factually describe the findings --- and avoid interpreting them or including background materials? If not, where do the authors need to improve?***
2. ***Is the Results section clearly and logically organized? Is it easy to follow? If not, how might it be made more clear or easy to follow?***
3. ***Do you understand the results the authors present? Do they communicate them clearly? Do you see how the results speak to the authors' research questions? If not, how might things be made clearer?***
4. ***Are the authors' tables (and figures, if they have any) clear? Well organized? If not, how might they be improved?***
5. ***Does the Discussion section help the reader make sense of the findings? Do the authors interpret the results in light of the major research questions? If not, how can the authors revise to have the Discussion do so?***
6. ***From reading the Discussion section, are you clear about how the authors' conclusions add to current knowledge and advance the research literature? If not, what do you suggest the authors do to be clearer?***
7. ***Do the authors describe the limitations of their work --- without throwing the research under the bus? If not, how might the authors revise?***
8. ***Do the authors give the reader ideas about future research others might do in response to the authors' findings? If not, what ideas come to your mind for future research based on the authors' findings?***
9. ***In general, do you find the authors’ paper to be interesting? Compelling? Do they --- throughout the paper --- make the case that their questions are important and that they provide new strong evidence in answer to those questions?***

**GRADING**

This assignment is worth 10 points. Each question is worth **1** point. Credit will be based on how thoroughly you answer the questions. Note that none of them are simple yes/no questions; all ask you to provide suggestions for how the authors might improve aspects of their methods section. Turn in **just the worksheet** via Canvas.

Assignments turned in up to 48 hours late will receive half credit; those turned in beyond 48 hours late will not be accepted.

**WORKSHEET: CRITIQUE OF RESULTS & DISCUSSION SECTIONS**

**Your Name:** [Here]

**Topic of Group’s Paper:** [Here]

1. ***Did they follow the group assignment instructions?***

[Type your answer here. See the specific instructions above.]

1. ***Does the Results section factually describe the findings --- and avoid interpreting them or including background materials? If not, where do the authors need to improve?***

[Type your answer here. See the specific instructions above.]

1. ***Is the Results section clearly and logically organized? Is it easy to follow? If not, how might it be made more clear or easy to follow?***

[Type your answer here. See the specific instructions above.]

1. ***Do you understand the results the authors present? Do they communicate them clearly? Do you see how the results speak to the authors' research questions? If not, how might things be made clearer?***

[Type your answer here. See the specific instructions above.]

1. ***Are the authors' tables (and figures, if they have any) clear? Well organized? If not, how might they be improved?***

[Type your answer here. See the specific instructions above.]

1. ***Does the Discussion section help the reader make sense of the findings? Do the authors interpret the results in light of the major research questions? If not, how can the authors revise to have the Discussion do so?***

[Type your answer here. See the specific instructions above.]

1. ***From reading the Discussion section, are you clear about how the authors' conclusions add to current knowledge and advance the research literature? If not, what do you suggest the authors do to be clearer?***

[Type your answer here. See the specific instructions above.]

1. ***Do the authors describe the limitations of their work --- without throwing the research under the bus? If not, how might the authors revise?***

[Type your answer here. See the specific instructions above.]

1. ***Do the authors give the reader ideas about future research others might do in response to the authors' findings? If not, what ideas come to your mind for future research based on the authors' findings?***

[Type your answer here. See the specific instructions above.]

1. ***In general, do you find the authors’ paper to be interesting? Compelling? Do they --- throughout the paper --- make the case that their questions are important and that they provide new strong evidence in answer to those questions?***

[Type your answer here. See the specific instructions above.]