

✓ CHECKLIST for the Research Process

(Use this checklist to assess your research process. Numbers in parentheses refer to the first page of discussion.)

Methods

- Did I ask the right questions? (120)
- Are the sources appropriately up-to-date? (165)
- Is each source reputable, trustworthy, relatively unbiased, and borne out by other, similar sources? (166)
- Does the evidence clearly support all of the conclusions? (124)
- Is a fair balance of viewpoints represented? (121)
- Can all of the evidence be verified? (173)
- Has the research achieved adequate depth? (122)
- Has the entire research process been valid and reliable? (188)

Reasoning

- Am I reasonably certain about the meaning of these findings? (174)
- Can I discern assumption from fact? (176)
- Am I reasoning instead of rationalizing? (177)
- Can I discern correlation from causation? (183)
- Is this the most reasonable conclusion (or merely the most convenient)? (174)
- Can I rule out other possible interpretations or conclusions? (177)

- Have I accounted for all sources of bias, including my own? (176)
- Are my generalizations warranted by the evidence? (178)
- Am I confident that my causal reasoning is accurate? (179)
- Can I rule out confounding factors? (182)
- Can all of the numbers, statistics, and interpretations be trusted? (181)
- Have I resolved (or at least acknowledged) any conflicts among my findings? (124)
- Can I rule out any possible error or distortion? (189)
- Am I getting the whole story, and getting it straight? (124)
- Should the evidence be reconsidered? (124)

Documentation

- Is the documentation consistent, complete, and correct? (Appendix A)
- Is all quoted material clearly marked throughout the text? (682)
- Are direct quotations used sparingly and appropriately? (682)
- Are all quotations accurate and integrated grammatically? (683)
- Are all paraphrases accurate and clear? (684)
- Have I documented all sources not considered common knowledge? (685)