

✓ Checklist: The Research Process

(Numbers in parentheses refer to the first page of discussion.)

Methods

- Did I ask the right questions? (115)
- Are the sources appropriately up-to-date? (150)
- Is each source reputable, trustworthy, relatively unbiased, and borne out by other, similar sources? (151)
- Does the evidence clearly support all of the conclusions? (154)
- Is a fair balance of viewpoints represented? (117)
- Can all of the evidence be verified? (155)
- Has the research achieved adequate depth? (117)
- Has the entire research process been valid and reliable? (166)

Reasoning

- Am I reasonably certain about the meaning of these findings? (156)
- Can I discern assumption from fact? (156)
- Am I reasoning instead of rationalizing? (157)
- Can I discern correlation from causation? (164)
- Is this the most reasonable conclusion (or merely the most convenient)? (155)
- Can I rule out other possible interpretations or conclusions? (157)
- Have I accounted for all sources of bias, including my own? (157)
- Are my generalizations warranted by the evidence? (159)
- Am I confident that my causal reasoning is accurate? (159)
- Can I rule out confounding factors? (164)
- Can all of the numbers, statistics, and interpretations be trusted? (162).
- Have I resolved (or at least acknowledged) any conflicts among my findings? (119)
- Can I rule out any possible error or distortion? (167)
- Am I getting the whole story, and getting it straight? (167)
- Should the evidence be reconsidered? (165)

Documentation

- Is the documentation consistent, complete, and correct? (634)
- Is all quoted material clearly marked throughout the text? (636)
- Are direct quotations used sparingly and appropriately? (636)
- Are all quotations accurate and integrated grammatically? (637)
- Are all paraphrases accurate and clear? (638)
- Have I documented all sources not considered common knowledge? (639)