# Summary and Review of Research Methods

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## Overview {-}

Designing your research project, gathering and interpreting your data, and then discerning the possible meanings of your research results is not the end of the research process. Scientific knowledge is meant to be shared. As our textbook author, Dana S. Dunn has written, “disseminating knowledge is an integral part of science” (Dunn, 2013, p. 289). In this unit we will explore various ways that psychological researchers share the results of their work. It is exciting to be part of the process of building understanding about people and the “human condition.” Our research builds on the work of previous researchers who have explored the complexities of human and other animal behavior and when we share our research, the scientists who follow benefit and build on our hard work.

## Topics {-}

This unit is divided into the following topics:

1. Various ways to share your research findings including presentations and publishing
2. The practical good learning of research methods

### Learning Outcomes {-}

When you have completed this unit, you should be able to:

* Describe why psychological research is necessary
* Understand the importance of sharing your research with others
* Discover the various ways of sharing your research findings
* Determine the best way to share your research
* Gain tips for excellence in public presentations and publishing of your research

### Activity Checklist {-}

Here is a checklist of learning activities that will help you deepen your understanding of the unit concepts. Activities are meant to be formative (unless otherwise specified), as in an ungraded opportunity for you to develop your thinking; however, many of these are designed to also help you with your summative assessments.

**Learning Activities**

**Activity 5.1: Read and Reflect**

* **Read Chapter 9 of the textbook**

**Activity 5.2: Presentations**

* **Review articles on effective presentations**

**Activity 5.3: Read and Take Notes**

* **Read Chapter 10 of the textbook and take notes**

**Activity 5.4: Watch and Reflect**

* **Watch a video on the importance of research**

**Assessment**

* Submit Part 2 and 3 of Assignment 4: Research Project
* Begin working on Assignment 6: Research Presentation (due Week 6)

### Resources {-}

Here are the resources you will need to complete this unit.

* Dunn, Dana S. (2013). The Practical Researcher: A Student Guide to Conducting Psychological Research. 3rd ed., John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
* Other online resources will be provided in the unit.

## Sharing Your Research

**There are various ways to share your research findings with the world. Student and professional conferences provide one of the best avenues for sharing your research with others interested and involved in the field of psychology. Presentations can include giving a poster presentation that graphically displays your hypotheses, method of gathering and analyzing data, as well as the results and the discussion of your findings. Interested conference participants can come and chat with you about your research study which is a great way to personally share what you have discovered. At a conference you can also give a presentation of your research study (usually a PowerPoint Presentation) or participate in a panel discussion. The publishing of your work by writing a journal article in a peer-reviewed journal or even writing a book are also ways to share your research with a wide audience.**

**You do not need to be a expert researcher to attend a research conference. Students can gain rich, valuable experiences from participating in one too. Some even earn research awards (take a look at** [**Nick Bush's example**](https://web.uri.edu/chs/2017/11/30/psychology-student-earns-research-award-at-national-conference/)**).**

**Here is a short list some conferences you can consider attending, either online or in person:**

* **the American Psychological Association Conference**
* **the American Association of Christian Counselors Conference**
* **the Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference**
* **TWU often offers student research conferences to both attend as well as participate in by sharing your research**

**Learning Activities**

**Activities are meant to be formative (unless otherwise specified), as in an ungraded opportunity for you to develop your thinking; however, many of these are designed to also help you with your summative assessment so completing them is essential.**

### Activity: Read and Reflect {-}

Read Chapter 9 of our textbook and consider which ways you might like to share research.

### Activity: Presentations {-}

Read the following articles regarding how to prepare and deliver effective presentations.

1. [Power up your PowerPoint](https://www.apa.org/gradpsych/2012/01/presentations)
2. [Quite Possibly The World's Worst PowerPoint Presentation Ever](https://www.apa.org/gradpsych/2012/01/worst-powerpoint-ever.pdf)

Question to Consider:

* What are some good ideas from these articles that you can implement right now as you prepare for your presentation in this course?

## The Impact of Research

As we are getting closer to wrapping up this course, it is important to reflect on how far we’ve come! Throughout this course, we have dived into an array of topics related to research methods. In the end you are not meant to be an expert on research methods and we don’t expect you to be. However, we do expect research to be something that you can apply not only in your professional life, but in personal life as well. Whether we are building knowledge on the best therapeutic practices for our future clients or testing a hypothesis, research methods undoubtedly impacts us on a personal level.

“Research is the force behind everything that we do."

Learning Activities

### Activity: Read and Take Note {-}

Read Chapter 10 of our textbook and take note on what you’ve learned so far. This is a very brief chapter in the textbook. Reflect on how it applies to your research assignments.

### Activity: Watch and Reflect {-}

Watch this video on "Why research is so important?" as we wrap up the final chapters of this course:

<https://youtu.be/FuVGo3AJhqA>

[](https://youtu.be/FuVGo3AJhqA)

Questions to Consider: After completing all the activities above, answer the following questions. (Keep these questions in mind as they will be a part of the synchronous class discussion)

1. What were your expectations before you enrolled in the class?
2. What is the most important thing that you learned from our course?
3. How can research methods help you in future psychology courses, in courses outside the field, and in life and career?

## Unit Summary {-}

Throughout this course we have emphasized the importance of good methodological research in Psychology. In this unit we have explored the various ways in which that research can be shared with others in order to contribute to the continuing development and growth of psychological knowledge. It is exciting to realize that by sharing your research you are helping to build a more complete understanding of human beings and other animals.

## Assessment {-}

After completing this unit, including the learning activities, you are asked to complete the following assessments. For more details and the submission boxes, please go to the Assessments tab.

**Assignment 4: Research project**

This week, make sure to submit Part 2 and Part 3 to the submission boxes in the Assessment tab.

**Assignment 5: Research Presentation**

Create a presentation that describes Part 1, 3 and 4 briefly (Not 2). Length to be 7 minutes. Special attention should be given to why this would be important research to implement and what “realities” you would hope to be able to provide evidence for. Graded based on presentation style, clear and concise summary, and interesting visual slides.

## Checking your Learning {-}

Before you move on to the next unit, you may want to check to make sure that you are able to:

* Describe why psychological research is necessary
* Understand the importance of sharing your research with others
* Discover the various ways of sharing your research findings
* Determine the best way to share your research
* Describe tips for excellence in public presentations and publishing of your research