

Wrap-up: Research Design

Lesson Plan: 5770-14

Class: 5770-Research Methods in Counseling

Affiliation: Harding Graduate School of Religion

Instructor: John F. Kennedy

Date: December 6, 2007

Duration: 2.75 hours

Description: Students have been working in groups to design a research project based on a common set of given facts. They have presented their research designs to the class. This class session will allow students to begin to synthesize what they have been learning about research design and methodology through a small group/panel activity.

Goals:

- To introduce students to the process of analyzing research designs
- To provide students an opportunity to exercise and develop leadership skills by working in a panel discussion/small group activity
- To provide students at different levels of mastery of the subject of research design the opportunity to interact and learn from one another.
- To illustrate the complexity of refining a research design project in a mock “real life” situation.

Objectives:

1. Students can demonstrate skill in analyzing a research design by articulating strengths and deficiencies on a design, given a set of criteria for the design.
2. Students will demonstrate skill of how to modify and defend a research design proposal in a mock “real life” situation.

Materials:

- Model research design provided by the instructor that outlines a quality research design based on the same criteria given to students.
- Handout containing criteria for research design project.
- White board, markers, and eraser.

Procedure: Students will finish presenting their group research design proposals at the beginning of class (will not be on video). Students will take 5 minutes and select a “panel” of four students who will represent a research review committee. Students will also decide which of the presentations given they think is the most well-designed study. The rest of the students will work together to come up with changes to the design they believe are needed in order to convince the “committee” to fund the study. The “committee” will use the design provided by the instructor as a source of comparison. This activity is designed to allow the students who have a greater grasp of research design concepts an opportunity to sharpen their evaluation skills and leadership skills. The rest of the class will demonstrate skill in negotiation and working together.

The instructor will wrap up the exercise and offer a post-exercise debriefing opportunity for students.