Test Bank for Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology - A Text and Reader 1st Tartaro

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Chapter 2

Short Answer

How is it possible that a correct media story about crime can still give us an inaccurate view of the crime problem?
Answer: Focuses on certain types of crime that might not be typical

How does the idea that criminal justice issues are "common sense" cause problems when policy is made?
Answer: It makes some people think that the solutions are easy, therefore expert opinion and research are not necessary.

Why is peer-review of articles so important?
Answer: There is a certain degree of quality control, since it has to undergo review by multiple experts in the field.

Why are predatory journals potentially dangerous?
Answer: There is no quality control, as some have been found to publish anything for a fee.

Provide one example of how a conflict of interest can taint research
Answer: Threaten the objectivity of research; undermine public's trust in science.

Why is it so important for researchers to discuss the limitations of their research?
Answer: It demonstrates the author's scientific integrity; it can help the researchers understand the results in the proper context; future research can address the limitations.

Why is Wikipedia not a reliable source for information?
Answer: Anyone can edit an entry.

Why are sites such as the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration sources of good information?
Answer: They provide statistics to help measure the scope of problems and are excellent starting points for students and professional researchers.

Multiple Choice

FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin is an example of a _____
a. Trade publication* b. Blog c. Peer-reviewed journal d. Refereed Journal

If you are weighing the quality of sources of information, which tends to rank highest among these options?
a. A magazine website b. Trade publication c. Peer-reviewed journal* d. Blog

Authors generally include extensive discussions of theory in the _____ section of an article.
a. Introduction b. Literature review* c. Research design d. Results

Article authors most often list their hypothesis at _____.
a. The end of the literature review b. The beginning of the research design section

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b. The abstract d. Both A and B*

The _____ section of the paper is where the author should inform the reader of changes to the research protocol or unexpected challenges, such as changes to the sample size.

a. Introduction b. Literature review c. Results d. Research design*

The _____ of a paper is where researchers try to explain their findings and speculate what they mean.

a. Results b. Literature review c. Discussion* d. Limitations

The _____ section of a paper is likely to have the most tables.

a. Literature review b. Introduction c. Results* d. Discussion

Which of the following web domains is likely to share the most valid and reliable information?

a. .com.co b. .org c. .edu* d. .mil

When evaluating the credibility of an individual source, factor(s) to consider are the author's _____.

a. Popularity b. Common Sense approach c. Experience* d. All of the above

One drawback to trade publications is _____.

a. Articles are written by practitioners b. Articles are written for practitioners
c. Articles are not peer reviewed* d. There is no editorial board reviewing articles

How do editors of peer-reviewed journals find and choose referees?

a. Editors have a pre-existing knowledge of and familiarity with the research discipline
b. Editors review the bibliographies of submitted manuscripts and select from those researchers
c. Authors of manuscripts identify experts in the field
d. All of the above.*

True False

Scared straight is an effective criminal justice intervention. (F)

Trade publications routinely subject their articles to peer-review. (F)

In the 1990s, a young man died while participating in a gene therapy study where researchers withheld information about their financial stake in the medical treatment. (T).

Abstracts are typically 100 – 300 words. (T)

Authors work to tie their research findings to criminological theory in the results section. (F)

More weight should be given to anecdotal information than to empirical evidence. (F)

Crimes portrayed in TV shows and in the media accurately represent the most common crimes committed. (F)

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Stories that are reported by multiple sources are more likely to be credible than stories appearing in limited news outlets. (T)

Predatory journals are journals that report cases focusing on predators, such as serial killers. (F)

Essay
How can you use the limitations found in articles you read to improve your own work?

Give an example of how not disclosing a conflict of interest might impact research findings.

What is the blind peer review process? Why is this process used?

Fill in the Blank

A researcher's financial stake in the issue he/she is studying presents a _____.
Answer: conflict of interest

The very brief synopsis at the beginning of an article is known as the _____.
Answer: Abstract

The latest research findings are less likely to appear in _____ due to the length of time it takes to write and publish them, and more likely to be found in _____.
Answer: Books, Peer-reviewed journals

_____ is another name for peer-reviewed journals.
Answer: Refereed Journals

The _____ section of an article is where authors present readers with a summary of the available research on this topic.
Answer: literature review

Unit of analysis refers to _____.
Answer: who or what you are studying

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