

As you read a piece of published sociological research, you may be more able to assess the value of the research and the results if you ask yourself some questions about the article:

- What is the basic research problem the researcher is investigating?
- Is the research question derived from a particular sociological theory?
- Were any hypotheses stated? How were these hypotheses different from those tested in previous research?
- What type of research was used? Experiment? Survey? Use of existing statistics? Field research? Unobtrusive research?
- What were the independent and dependent variables? Did the author explain how the variables were measured?
- Who were the subjects in the study? How were they selected? Did the author think the sample was representative of the general population?
- What did the research find? How clearly were the statistical results discussed?
- Is there anything else you'd want to know about how the research was carried out that wasn't discussed by the author?