

Greenlaw Ch. 1: What is Research (p. 1-5)

Learning objectives:

1. *Recognize that the research process is less straightforward than coursework and that challenges are to be expected.*
2. *Differentiate between facts and knowledge.*
3. *Understand the character of research as a form of knowing.*
4. *Prepare for the role of critical thinking in the evaluation of arguments.*

Research

- a) is easy.
- b) progress often comes in fits and starts.
- c) is a straightforward, mechanical process.
- d) always has a well-defined answer.

Which of the following is true according to Greenlaw?

- a) Research is searching for facts.
- b) Facts are created, while knowledge is discovered.
- c) In a research context, an argument is a quarrel or controversy.
- d) Research is the creation of valid knowledge.
- e) "Facts" are what is believed to be true about something.

Fill in the blank: _____ involves the ability to recognize and assess an argument and its constituent parts, including the assumptions, logic, and evidence.

- a) Critical thinking
- b) An invalid decision
- c) Multiplicity
- d) Truth

When scholars evaluate different arguments, they ask which question(s)?

- a) What are the underlying assumptions?
- b) Does the argument make sense?
- c) Is the logic flawed?
- d) What is the empirical evidence?
- e) All of the above.

Remler & Van Ryzin Ch. 1: Research in the Real World (2nd edition)

p. 65-69 + "Is There One Truth in Social Science?" p. 72-73

Learning objectives:

1. *Understand the character of research as a form of knowing.*
2. *Define research as a social and intellectual activity that involves systematic inquiry aimed at accurately describing and explaining the world.*
3. *Appreciate the limitations of research.*
4. *Describe the scientific realism perspective on research.*

We use the term research to refer to

- a) primary research.
- b) secondary research.
- c) original research.
- d) Both (a) and (c).

Research

- a) provides certain and universal conclusions.
- b) is perfect.
- c) is not bounded in space, time, and context.
- d) involves competition and criticism.
- e) is typically definitive.

Research involving mainly numerical measurement and statistics is known as

- a) quantitative.
- b) qualitative.
- c) mixed methods.

Scientific realism

- a) is the approach of researchers who pattern their work after the natural sciences.
- b) believes the social world is part of an objective reality.
- c) rejects the idea that an objective truth exists for social phenomena.
- d) is a strict form of empiricism.