The SRQR reporting guideline writing guide

For writing impactful qualitative health research articles that can be understood and used by everyone.

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| Note |
| If you have not used a writing guide before, read about our suggested “[packing for a holiday](../../about/writing-using-reporting-guidelines.qmd)” writing process.  This guide is not a template. Don’t expect to fill it in and end up with a finished article. Instead, think of it as an exercise book.   1. Collate information and make notes in this guide; 2. Delete the prompts and headings, reorganise your notes into a narrative structure, and decide which information to prioritize; 3. Draft, revise, and edit your text in a separate file.   Before you begin, double check that SRQR is the [most applicable reporting guideline](guidelines/srqr/index.qmd?#applicability) for your work. Other reporting guidelines have their own writing guide. |

# Introduction

## [Purpose or research question](https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/guidelines/srqr/items/purpose.html)

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| Things To Consider |
| What was the purpose of your study? Authors often frame this as one or more questions or statements, often asking “how” or “why”.  NB. You’ll notice this guide asks questions in a different order to how articles are presented. There are more questions about your introduction later, and questions about your abstract and title appear later still. This is because we recommend beginning to write by first defining your research question, then describing your methods and results. |

* Make notes here:
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# Methods

## [Qualitative approach and research paradigm](https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/guidelines/srqr/items/qualitative-approach.html)

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| Things To Consider |
| * If you used a guiding theory, what was it? * What were your [qualitative approach](www.google.com#TODO) and [paradigm](www.google.com#TODO)? Describe them in your own words. * Why did you choose them? * What key references influenced your approach? |

* Make notes here:
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## [Context](https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/guidelines/srqr/items/context.html)

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| Things To Consider |
| * Where was the research conducted (its setting/site)? * Why did you choose this setting/site? * Did any salient cultural, political, historical, economic or other external factors influence your study?   Although most of this context will fit best in your methods section, you can also consider placing additional context with your findings in the Results section to add evidence for interpretations and enhance discussion of transferability. |

* Make notes here:
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## [Sampling strategy](https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/guidelines/srqr/items/sampling-strategy.html)

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| Things To Consider |
| Describe how and why research participants, documents, or events were selected; criteria for deciding when no further sampling was necessary, and the rationale for those criteria. |

* Make notes here:
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## [Data collection methods](https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/guidelines/srqr/items/data-collection-methods.html)

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| Things To Consider |
| * When did data collection begin and end? * Name your methods, and describe them step-by-step in sufficient detail to allow a reader to repeat them. * Why did you choose these methods? When justifying them, consider your research question, paradigm, approach, and other methods. * Who collected data? Describe any important characteristics of them, and any training they received for this study. |

* Make notes here:
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## [Data collection instruments and technologies](https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/guidelines/srqr/items/data-collection-instruments.html)

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| Things To Consider |
| * List all data collection instruments (e.g., interview schedules, questionnaires) * Who developed them, and how? * Where can readers access them? Consider sharing them in the article, as a supplement, or via a repository like the OSF. * Describe any equipment you used for audio or video recordings. |

* Make notes here:
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## [Units of study](https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/guidelines/srqr/items/units-of-study.html)

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| Things To Consider |
| Describe the number and relevant characteristics of participants, documents, or events included in the study. Describe the level of participation. |

* Make notes here:
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## [Data processing](https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/guidelines/srqr/items/data-processing.html)

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| Things To Consider |
| * If you processed data before analysing it, when and how did you do this? (e.g., transcribing, anonymisation, data entry). * How did you process data during analysis? (E.g. coding, organising) * If you used transcripts, did you check accuracy in any way? * How did you maintain data security and protect the privacy or participants? |

* Make notes here:
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## [Data analysis](https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/guidelines/srqr/items/data-analysis.html)

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| Things To Consider |
| What was your unit of analysis?  If you used an approach that has a well-defined process for data analysis (e.g., grounded theory, discourse analysis, phenomenography):   * what literature guided you? (collate your references) * describe your processes in sufficient detail so readers can judge the extent to which your processes align with the guiding approach. * If you modified or deviated from the guiding approach, explain and justify these modifications.   Otherwise, describe your process step by step.  Who performed analysis steps?  Why did you choose this analysis process? |

* Make notes here:
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## [Ethical issues pertaining to human subjects](https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/guidelines/srqr/items/ethics.html)

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| Things To Consider |
| Did you receive ethical approval for this study? If so, what was the name of the review board, and what was the approval number?  If not, describe why.  What procedures did you use to protect participants? E.g.,   * How did you collect informed consent? If you didn’t, why not? * How did you ensure data security and integrity, if at all? * Did you anonymize participants, if at all?   Did you offer any compensation or incentives to facilitate participation? Describe it. |

* Make notes here:
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## [Researcher characteristics and reflexivity](https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/guidelines/srqr/items/researcher-characteristics-and-reflexivity.html)

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| Things To Consider |
| Describe how researchers’ characteristics may influence the research, including personal attributes, qualifications/experience, relationship with participants, assumptions, and/or presuppositions; potential or actual interaction between researchers’ characteristics and the research questions, approach, methods, results and/or transferability. |

* Make notes here:
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## [Techniques to enhance trustworthiness](https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/guidelines/srqr/items/trustworthiness.html)

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| Things To Consider |
| Describe any techniques to enhance trustworthiness and credibility of data analysis,(e.g., member checking, triangulation, audit trail). Describe why you chose these techniques. |

* Make notes here:
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# Results

## [Synthesis and interpretation](https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/guidelines/srqr/items/synthesis-and-interpretation.html)

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| Things To Consider |
| Describe the main findings (e.g., interpretations, inferences, and themes); might include development of a theory or model, or integration with prior research or theory. |

* Make notes here:
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## [Links to empirical data](https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/guidelines/srqr/items/links-to-empirical-data.html)

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| Things To Consider |
| Go through your data and select quotes/excerpts that you feel best exemplify your findings. |

* Make notes here:
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# Discussion

## [Integration with prior work, implications, transferability, and contribution(s) to the field](https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/guidelines/srqr/items/integration-with-prior-work.html)

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| Things To Consider |
| * How do your findings and conclusions relate to the literature you cited in your introduction? Do they challenge previous work, support it, or add new context? * How do your findings advance your field? * How might your findings transfer or generalize to other phenomena or fields? |

* Make notes here:
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## [Limitations](https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/guidelines/srqr/items/limitations.html)

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| Things To Consider |
| All research has limitations. The best researchers try hard to acknowledge them and discuss how they may have influenced findings.   * Look back at the items above, and consider whether your chosen paradigm, approach, and methods may influence the situations to which the findings may reasonably apply * Look at the items above, and list any that you did not (or could not do). Consider how these gaps may have influenced your findings. If not, why not? |

* Make notes here:
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# Introduction (again)

## [Problem Formulation](https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/guidelines/srqr/items/problem-formulation.html)

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| Things To Consider |
| * Having already defined your research question, describe the knowledge gap this question fills. * When describing this knowledge gap (or, what *isn’t* known), give an overview of what *is* known about the problem and the key research this knowledge comes from. * Why did you decide to use a qualitative approach to answer your question, instead of a purely quantitative approach?   Think about how to structure your introduction to make the narrative clear and compelling. |

* Make notes here:
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# Other

## [Conflicts of interest](https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/guidelines/srqr/items/conflicts-of-interest.html)

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| Things To Consider |
| * What conflicts of interest may have influenced the research? These could be financial, professional, or personal. * How might these have influenced the findings?   Some aspects may have been mentioned as part of Reflexivity. |

* Make notes here:
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## [Funding](https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/guidelines/srqr/items/funding.html)

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| Things To Consider |
| * List your sources of funding. * Describe the role of your funders in data collection, analysis and reporting. |

* Make notes here:
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# Title & Abstract

## [Abstract](https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/guidelines/srqr/items/abstract.html)

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| Things To Consider |
| Your abstract needs to paint an accurate and interesting summary of your work.   * If you have a target journal in mind, check their author instructions for limits on abstract length and structure. * It will be indexed by search engines, so look at your notes above and pick out the key phrases. * these key phrases should include:   + your phenomena of interest   + your methods, including the approach or perspective (e.g., general inductive, grounded theory),   + context (setting, time period),   + sample (number and key characteristics of participants, events, or documents),   + data collection strategies (e.g., observation, interview, focus group),   + and analysis techniques. * Craft these keywords into sentences that describe your research question and methods. Add a background sentence to justify why your research question is important. * Summarise your main findings (e.g., themes or inferences) and their implications.   Most journals invite authors to provide *keywords* in addition to the abstract, so if you struggle to include all key phrases within the abstract, consider providing them as keywords. Your abstract, title, and keywords will all be indexed, so to make your work as findable as possible, you should try to use as many different relevant terms as possible. |

* Make notes here:
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## [Title](https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/guidelines/srqr/items/title.html)

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| Things To Consider |
| Describe the nature and topic of the study. Identify the study as qualitative or indicate the approach or data collection methods. |

* Make notes here:
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## How to cite

Describe how you used SRQR at the end of your Methods section e.g.,

‘We used the SRQR(1) writing guide to draft this manucript, and the SRQR reporting checklist(2) when writing this manuscript, included in supplement A’

Then reference the resources you used.

1. #TODO. The SRQR writing guide. In: #TODO, editor. The EQUATOR network reporting guideline platform [Internet]. The UK EQUATOR Centre; 2025. Available from: [https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/guidelines/srqr/srqr-writing-guide.docx](https://https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/guidelines/srqr/srqr-writing-guide.docx)

2. #TODO. The SRQR reporting checklist. In: #TODO, editor. The EQUATOR network reporting guideline platform [Internet]. The UK EQUATOR Centre; 2025. Available from: [guidelines/srqr/srqr-checklist.docx](https://guidelines/srqr/srqr-checklist.docx)