

# Practical Research 1

## Second Semester

### Third Quarter-Module 3

#### Ethics of Research



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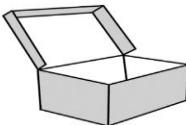
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## What I Need to Know

Hello Grade 11 learners! In this third module for the 1st grading period, you will learn how to:

Describe characteristics, processes and ethics of research

You can say that you have understood the lesson in this module if you can already:

1. identify the characteristics of research;
2. enumerate the research process;
3. explain the importance of ethics in conducting research; and
4. describe a good researcher.



## What I Know

Answer the questions below to the best you can.

1. What are the characteristics of research? Identify.

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2. How do we conduct research? Enumerate the process.

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**Lesson  
1**

## Characteristics, Processes, and Ethics of Research



## What's In

Before we proceed, please do the task below as directed.

In the Additional Activity Part of the previous lesson, you were tasked to read from books, journals and magazines or view on social media at least five (5) research conducted in different fields. Write a paragraph or two containing at least 150 words to discuss your output. Do not forget to include citations in your work. Use a separate sheet of paper for your answer.



In this module, you are going to describe the characteristics of research, the processes, and the ethics to follow in doing your study.

*Why do you think it is important to study these things?*

Remember dear learner that it is very important that you know all these things so that you will be more guided as you do your future tasks.



## What's New

### A. Before Reading Activity

For sure, you are already very much aware on the importance of research. *Can you tell again why research is important? Do you know how to conduct a research? How about ethics? What comes to your mind when you hear this word?*

### B. During Reading Activity

Let us read the text below about ethics.

*Most people learn ethical norms at home, at school, in church, or in other social settings. Although most people acquire their sense of right and wrong during childhood, moral development occurs throughout life and human beings pass through different stages of growth as they mature. Ethical norms are so ubiquitous that one might be tempted to regard them as simple common sense. On the other hand, if morality were nothing more than common sense, then why are there so many ethical disputes and issues in our society?*

*One plausible explanation of these disagreements is that all people recognize some common ethical norms but interpret, apply, and balance them in different ways in light of their own values and life experiences. For example, two people could agree that murder is wrong but disagree about the morality of abortion because they have different understandings of what it means to be a human being.*

*Most societies also have legal rules that govern behavior, but ethical norms tend to be broader and more informal than laws. Although most societies use laws to enforce widely accepted moral standards and ethical and legal rules use similar concepts, ethics and law are not the same. An action may be legal but unethical or illegal but ethical. We can also use ethical concepts and principles to criticize, evaluate, propose, or interpret laws. Indeed, in the last century, many social reformers have urged citizens to disobey laws they regarded as immoral or unjust laws. Peaceful civil disobedience is an ethical way of protesting laws or expressing political viewpoints.*

### C. After Reading Activity

Let us analyze what you have read by answering the following questions. Use a separate sheet of paper for your answers.

1. Where do ethical norms originate? Explain in your own words.
2. Ethical norms are so *ubiquitous*. What is the meaning of this? Circle the letter of the correct answer.
  - A. Ethical norms are found and held valuable in families.
  - B. Ethical norms are found and practiced in work places.
  - C. Ethcial norms are found and required in government offices.
  - D. Ethical norms are found everywhere



3. Because of its ubiquitousness, how do people view ethical norms? Explain in your own words in a paragraph of at least five (5) sentences.
4. Are ethical norms and morality the same? Explain in your own words by writing a short paragraph of at least 50 words.
5. How important are ethical norms? Are these important in research? Why? Why not? Explain in your own words by writing a short paragraph of at least 50 words



## What is It

Dear learner, doing research is exciting. *Am I right?*

Just like what you learned in the previous lessons, research is something that is done regularly in different fields and it has an impact in our daily lives.

A lot of products that we enjoy using today are parts of research. These products- cellular phones, health products, medicines, internet and others have become vital necessities that we find it difficult to live without. *Look at your android phone, can you live without it? Can you study better without a gadget?*

Some of you may think that research is very difficult and tedious to do. Well, a lot of us do. Even teachers find it difficult to conduct research. In the book written by Navarro and Santos on research-based teaching and learning, they say that there is an alleged failure of educational research and one of the reasons for this problem emanates from the teachers who are thought to be close-minded.

*But what is the problem if you are close-minded? Is it okay to be close-minded?*

My dear learner, close-mindedness is one problem why we are not able to do the task that we are asked to do. A close-minded person will never go places.

You should not be a close-minded person. You should be the opposite. You should be open-minded because this way you will find more interest in doing and accomplishing something that you are doing.

A researcher needs to be accepting. You must be ready to learn and apply what you learn.

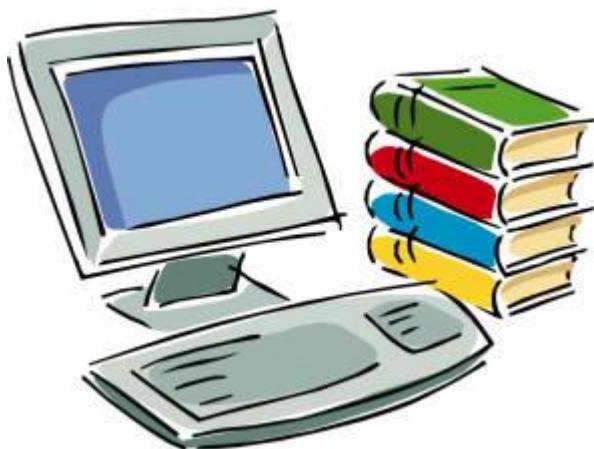


*Research is difficult? Do you think it is?*

Most of you will say it is! But knowing the nature of research and its characteristics will help you understand better the subject and make it a part of your individual and professional growth.

### **Characteristics of Research**

It is very important that you know the characteristics of research for you to have a vast idea on the subject. I have gathered some references on this topic and these are presented below for you to know. You may also compare and contrast each characteristic as given by the different sources.



<http://clipart-library.com/clipart/180058.htm>

According to *readingcraze.com*, research has the following characteristics:

1. Reliability
2. Validity
3. Accuracy
4. Credibility
5. Generalization
6. Empirical
7. Systematic
8. Controlled

*Can you discuss these characteristics in your own words? Let me know your ideas.*

In discussing each characteristic, the same site says that

- **Reliability** is the repeatability of any research, research instrument, tool or procedure.

Remember that if any research yields similar results each time it is undertaken with similar population and with similar procedures, it is called to be a reliable research. *But how do we know if something is reliable?*

Say for example, a research is conducted on the effects of single parenting on the class performance of the children. If the results conclude that it causes low grades in class, these results should have to be reliable for another sample taken from a similar population. This means that the more the results are similar; more reliability is present in the research.

- **Validity** is the strength with which we can make research conclusions, assumptions or propositions true or false.

Validity, dear learner, determines the applicability of the research. Validity of the research instrument can be defined as the suitability of the research instrument to the research problem or how accurately the instrument measures the problem. Some



researchers say that validity and reliability are co-related, but the validity is much more important than reliability.

*Can a researcher conduct a study without proving its validity? What will happen if there is no validity of one's research?*

Bear in mind that without validity, research goes in the wrong direction. To keep the research on-track define your concepts in the best possible manner so that no error occurs during the measurement.

- **Accuracy** is the degree to which each research process, instrument, and tool is related to each other.

Accuracy also measures whether research tools have been selected in best possible manner and research procedures suits the research problem or not.

Let us say for example, if a research has to be conducted on the trans-gender people, several data collection tools can be used depending on the research problems but if you find that population less cooperative the best way is to observe them rather than submitting questionnaire because in questionnaire either they will give biased responses or they will not return the questionnaires at all. So choosing the best data collection tool improves the accuracy of research.

- **Credibility** comes with the use of the best source of information and best procedures in research.

You have probably experienced doubting the words of your friends. You wondered whether your friend is true with his/her words. *What does this experience tell you? How important is credibility? How do you ensure that your research is credible?*

If you are using second-hand information in your research due to any reason your research might complete in less time but its credibility will be at stake because secondary data has been manipulated by human beings and is therefore not very valid to use in research.

A certain percentage of secondary data can be used if the primary source is not available but basing a research completely on secondary data when primary data can be gathered is least credible.

When you give accurate references in the research the credibility of the research increases but fake references also decrease the credibility of the research.

- **Generalization** is the extent to which research findings can be applied to larger population.

When a researcher conducts a study, he/she chooses a target population and from this population he takes a small sample to conduct the research.

This sample is representative of the whole population so the findings should also be. If research findings can be applied to any sample from the population, the results of the research are said to be generalizable.

- **Empirical nature of research** means that the research has been conducted following rigorous scientific methods and procedures.

Each step in the research has been tested for accuracy and is based on real life experiences.

Always, quantitative research is easier to prove scientifically than qualitative research. In qualitative research biases and prejudice are easy to occur.

- **Systematic approach** is the only approach to carry on a research.

Research, dear learner, is a process. *If research is conducted without following a process, what do you think will its outcome be?*



Always remember that no research can be conducted haphazardly. Each step must follow other. There are set of procedures that have been tested over a period of time and are thus suitable to use in research. Each research, therefore, should follow a procedure.

- **Controlled.** In real life experience there are many factors that affect an outcome. A single event is often a result of several factors. When similar event is tested in research, due to the broader nature of factors that effect that event, *some factors are taken as controlled factors while others are tested for a possible effect*. The controlled factors or variables should have to be controlled rigorously.

*Are you getting the points now, dear learner? Is the information given clear and understandable? Does the information add to your knowledge and interest in research?*

Well, I am very glad to note that you are getting more interested in learning the subject.

For your added knowledge and information, please proceed with the lesson. This time, let us have the characteristics of research from another source.

For [analyst0091.blogspot.com](http://analyst0091.blogspot.com), the following are the characteristics of research:

- Empirical
  - ✓ Research is based on direct experience or observation by the researcher.
- Logical
  - ✓ Research is based on valid procedures and principles.
- Cyclical
  - ✓ Research is a cyclical process because it starts with a problem and ends with a problem.
- Analytical
  - ✓ Research utilizes proven analytical procedures in gathering the data, whether historical, descriptive, experimental, and case study.
- Critical
  - ✓ Research exhibits careful and precise judgment.
- Methodical
  - ✓ Research is conducted in a methodical manner without bias using systematic method and procedures.
- Replicability
  - ✓ The research design and procedures are replicated or repeated to enable the researcher to arrive at valid and conclusive results.

*Can you compare and contrast the characteristics of research given by the two sources above? Which one is more understandable and acceptable?*

My dear learner, both sources of information are important as they tackle the nature of research. The information that you have just read and studied open a wide vista and perspective of what research is.



We said earlier that research is a process, right? What is the process of research?

## The Research Process

Research is a scientific process. As such, it should be conducted in a step-by-step process. Do you know these steps, dear learner?

According to www.nhcc.edu, the following steps outline a simple and effective strategy for writing a research paper:

### Step 1: Identify and develop your topic

Selecting a topic can be the most challenging part of a research assignment. Since this is the very first step in writing a paper, it is vital that it be done correctly.

*Here are some tips for selecting a topic:*

- *Select a topic within the parameters set by the assignment.*

You will surely be given clear guidelines as to what you can and cannot write about. Failure to work within these guidelines may result in your proposed paper being deemed unacceptable by your instructor.

- *Select a topic of personal interest to you and learn more about it.*

Research will be more enjoyable if you are writing about something that you find interesting. Say for example, you are interested in finding out the reasons behind the behavior shown by your neighbors during the Covid-19 pandemic or why your classmates fall into a romantic relationship at a younger age. *What are you interested about, dear learner? Can you tell me one or two things that you are most interested about?*

- *Select a topic for which you can find a manageable amount of information.*

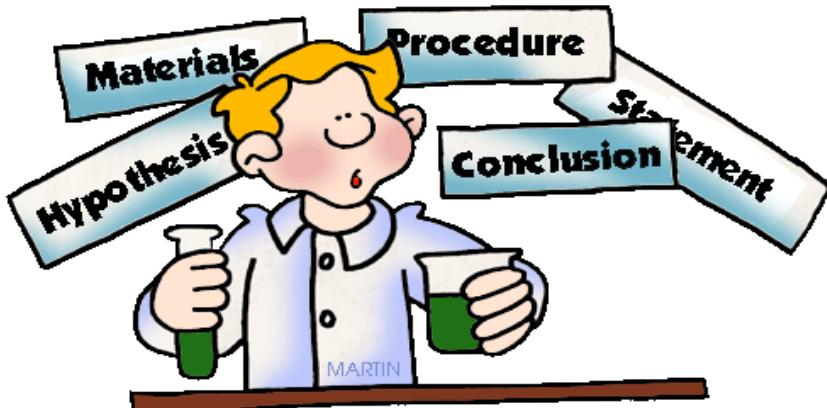
Do a preliminary search of information sources to determine whether existing sources will meet your needs. If you find too much information, you may need to narrow your topic; if you find too little, you may need to broaden your topic.

Let us say that you want to research on the effects of the Covid-19 virus on the health of new-born babies. *Do you think you can go on with your research? Why? Why not?*

- *Be original.*

Stand out from your classmates by selecting an interesting and off-the-beaten-path topic.





<http://clipart-library.com/clipart/128652.htm>

### **Step 2: Do a preliminary search for information**

Before beginning your research in earnest, do a preliminary search to determine whether there is enough information out there for your needs and to set the context of your research. You may find it necessary to adjust the focus of your topic in light of the resources available to you.

### **Step 3: Locate materials**

Previously, you learned that research entails a lot of reading and writing. As a researcher, you must have these skills.

Remember, with the direction of your research now clear to you, you can begin locating material on your topic. There are a lot of sources in which you can get your material such as books, magazines, journals, newspapers, encyclopedias, published and unpublished papers, the internet and a lot more.

*Given the information, where will you get the information needed for your planned study? Can you tell me why?*

### **Step 4: Evaluate your sources**

Provide credible, truthful, and reliable information. This step is especially important when using Internet resources, many of which are regarded as less than reliable.

### **Step 5: Make notes**

Note taking is important to students like you. *Do you take notes, dear learner? When and where do you do this?*

In research, you need to consult the resources you have chosen and note the information that will be useful in your paper. Be sure to document all the sources you consult, even if you there is a chance you may not use that particular source. The author, title, publisher, URL, and other information will be needed later when creating a bibliography.



## **Step 6: Write your paper**

For most students, writing is a difficult task. *Do you feel the same, dear learner? How do you write in research?*

Take note on this.

Begin by organizing the information you have collected. The next step is the rough draft, wherein you get your ideas on paper in an unfinished fashion. This step will help you organize your ideas and determine the form your final paper will take. After this, you will revise the draft as many times as you think necessary to create a final product to turn in to your instructor.

## **Step 7: Cite your sources properly**

Most people forget to give credits. What is worse is that students also do the same mistake. In Facebook, for instance, some of you just copy quotations, sayings and phrases without acknowledging the source. *Am I right? Looking at your Facebook wall now, can you identify one or two things being used without identifying its sources?*

Remember this, dear learner: Give credit where credit is due; cite your sources.

Citing or documenting the sources used in your research serves two purposes: it gives proper credit to the authors of the materials used, and it allows those who are reading your work to duplicate your research and locate the sources that you have listed as references. The MLA and the APA Styles are two popular citation formats.

Failure to cite your sources properly is plagiarism. Plagiarism is avoidable!

## **Step 8: Proofread**

Another problem being encountered by most students is mistakes in grammar. *Do you have the same problem? What do you do to address? Do you think it is acceptable to submit a written output with lots of grammatical errors?*

My dear learner, the final step in the process is to proofread the paper you have created. Read through the text and check for any errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Make sure the sources you used are cited properly. Make sure the message that you want to get across to the reader has been thoroughly stated.

*Do you find the above information useful? Is it okay to have another source discussing the process of research?*

Well then, let us study the information below.

For [research-methodology.net](http://research-methodology.net), a typical research process comprises the following stages:

### **1. Selecting the research area**

*We discussed earlier that your research topic must be based on your interest, right?*



Dear learner, you are expected to select the research area due to academic and personal interests in the area. The importance of this first stage in the research process is often underestimated by many students like you. Make sure that you find the research area and research problem that is genuinely interesting to you as this will ensure that the whole process of writing your paper will be much easier. Therefore, it is never too early to start thinking about the research area for your paper.

## **2. Formulating research aim, objectives and research questions or developing hypotheses**

The choice between the formulation of research questions and the development of hypotheses depends on your research approach. Appropriate research aims and objectives or hypotheses usually result from several attempts and revisions and these need to be mentioned in Methodology chapter. It is critically important to get your research questions or hypotheses confirmed by your teacher before moving forward with the work.

*Do you find this difficult to do?* Do not worry as this will be discussed more as you go on with your studies. For sure, once you have studied this part and the rest of the parts later, you will find this task easy to do.

## **3. Conducting the literature review. Literature review is usually the longest stage in the research process**

Actually, the literature review starts even before the formulation of research aims and objective; because you have to check if exactly the same research problem has been addressed before. Nevertheless, the main part of the literature review is conducted after the formulation of research aim and objectives. You have to use a wide range of secondary data sources such as books, newspapers, magazines, journals, online articles etc.

## **4. Selecting methods of data collection**

Data collection method(s) need to be selected on the basis of critically analyzing advantages and disadvantages associated with several alternative data collection methods. In studies involving primary data collection, in-depth discussions of advantages and disadvantages of selected primary data collection method(s) need to be included in methodology.

## **5. Collecting the primary data**

Primary data collection needs to be preceded by a great level of preparation and pilot data collection may be required in case of questionnaires. Primary data collection is not a compulsory stage for all papers and you will skip this stage if you are conducting a desk-based research.

## **6. Data analysis**

Analysis of data plays an important role in the achievement of research aim and objectives. Data analysis methods vary between secondary and primary studies, as well as, between qualitative and quantitative studies.



## **7. Reaching conclusions**

Conclusions relate to the level of achievement of research aims and objectives. In this final part of your paper, you will have to justify why you think that research aims and objectives have been achieved. Conclusions also need to cover research limitations and suggestions for future research.

## **8. Completing the research**

Following all of the stages described above, and organizing separate chapters into one file leads to the completion of the first draft. The first draft of your paper needs to be prepared at least one month before the submission deadline. This is because you will need to have sufficient amount of time to address feedback of your teacher.

Way to go dear learner! We are almost done with the topics. With the information that you have accumulated, I know that you feel now that research is something interesting and easy to do.

But a researcher adheres to some protocols. A researcher follows some ethics in writing his/her paper. As a researcher yourself, you must keep these protocols by heart.

### **Research Ethics**

At the start of this learning kit, you were asked to read about ethics. *Do you still remember what it is without browsing back the pages? How important is ethics?*

My dear leaner, research is very important in research. Research ethics provides guidelines for the responsible conduct of research. In addition, it educates and monitors researchers to ensure a high ethical standard.

The following is a general summary of some ethical principles according to [www.ethicsguidebook.ac.uk](http://www.ethicsguidebook.ac.uk):

#### **1. Honesty**

Honestly report data, results, methods and procedures, and publication status. Do not fabricate, falsify, or misrepresent data.

#### **2. Objectivity**

Strive to avoid bias in experimental design, data analysis, data interpretation, peer review, personnel decisions, grant writing, expert testimony, and other aspects of research.

#### **3. Integrity**

Keep your promises and agreements; act with sincerity; strive for consistency of thought and action.

#### **4. Carefulness**

Avoid careless errors and negligence; carefully and critically examine your own work and the work of your peers. Keep good records of research activities.



## **5. Openness**

Share data, results, ideas, tools, resources. Be open to criticism and new ideas.

## **6. Respect for Intellectual Property**

Honor patents, copyrights, and other forms of intellectual property. Do not use unpublished data, methods, or results without permission. Give credit where credit is due. Never plagiarize.

## **7. Confidentiality**

Protect confidential communications, such as papers or grants submitted for publication, personnel records, trade or military secrets, and patient records.

## **8. Responsible Publication**

Publish in order to advance research and scholarship, not to advance just your own career. Avoid wasteful and duplicative publication.

## **9. Responsible Mentoring**

Help to educate, mentor, and advise students. Promote their welfare and allow them to make their own decisions.

## **10. Respect for Colleagues**

Respect your colleagues and treat them fairly.

## **11. Social Responsibility**

Strive to promote social good and prevent or mitigate social harms through research, public education, and advocacy.

## **12. Non-Discrimination**

Avoid discrimination against colleagues or students on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, or other factors that are not related to their scientific competence and integrity.

## **13. Competence**

Maintain and improve your own professional competence and expertise through lifelong education and learning; take steps to promote competence in science as a whole.

## **14. Legality**

Know and obey relevant laws and institutional and governmental policies.

## **15. Animal Care**

Show proper respect and care for animals when using them in research. Do not conduct unnecessary or poorly designed animal experiments.



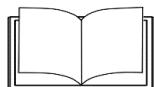
## **16. Human Subjects Protection**

When conducting research on human subjects, minimize harms and risks and maximize benefits; respect human dignity, privacy, and autonomy.

There you have it, dear learner. I hope that you learned a lot in this module. *Do you find this module helpful in your future tasks? Are the nature, processes and ethics of research clear to you now?*

With the diligence and positive attitude that you are showing, I am sure that the tasks ahead will be done by you successfully.

Thank you, dear learner for your love of acquiring knowledge!



## **What's More**

Answer the activities that will follow to practice your knowledge and skill about the topic of the characteristics, processes and ethics of research.

### **Activity 1**

Complete the chart below to identify the characteristics of research according to analyst0091.blogspot.com and the meaning of each attribute.

<b>Characteristic of Research</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
1. Empirical	
2.	Research is based on valid procedures and principles.
3. Cyclical	
4.	Research utilizes proven analytical procedures in gathering the data, whether historical, descriptive, experimental, and case study.
5. Critical	
6.	Research is conducted in a methodical manner without bias using systematic method and procedures.
7.	The research design and procedures are replicated or repeated to enable the researcher to arrive at valid and conclusive results.



### **Activity 2**

Enumerate the research process according to the identified source in each column.

<b>The Research Process</b>	
According to www.nhcc.edu	According to research-methodology.net
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
6.	6.
7.	7.
8.	8.

### **Activity 3**

Write a paragraph or two containing of at least 150 words explaining the importance of ethics in conducting research. Include examples in your explanation to make your points clear.

Be guided with the rubric below when doing your task.

#### **Rubric for Grading Output:**

Criteria	Outstanding 10 points	Very Satisfactory 8 points	Satisfactory 6 points	Needs Improvement 4 points
Content	Topic is well-discussed and examples are used to make the points clearer.	Topic is satisfactorily discussed and some examples are used to make the points clearer.	Topic is somehow discussed and less examples are used to make the points clearer.	Topic is not properly discussed and no examples are given to make the points clear.





## What I Have Learned

In this module, you have studied about the characteristics, processes and ethics in research. Express what you have learned by answering the questions below.

Compose a paragraph containing of at least 100 words as your answer on each question.

Be guided by the rubrics on grading outputs in Activity 3 above when doing your task.

1. What is research and its process?
2. How do you properly conduct a research



## What I Can Do

Apply what you have learned on the characteristics, processes and ethics of research by doing the activity that will follow.

Given the lessons above, describe how you will become a good researcher. Write at least 5 sentences describing the kind of researcher you will be.

Write your answer here:

1.

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2.

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3.

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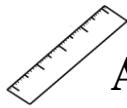
4.

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5.

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## Assessment

Showcase the knowledge and skills you have learned in this lesson by answering the assessment activity.

Fill in the blanks with the correct answer.



## **Additional Activities**

Watch the video on the qualities of a good researcher by clicking the given below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQOynVBGq0w>

After watching, answer the following questions by writing a short paragraph for each:

1. What are the qualities of a good researcher mentioned in the presentation?

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2. When do we consider someone doing a research a good researcher?

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### **POSTTEST**

Match Column **A** with Column **B** by writing the letter of the correct answer on the space provided before each item.

#### COLUMN A

- 1. Accuracy
- 2. Credibility
- 3. Empirical
- 4. Generalization
- 5. Logical
- 6. Methodical
- 7. Reliability
- 8. Replicability
- 9. Systematic
- 10. Validity

#### COLUMN B

- A. Based on valid procedures and principles.
- B. Conducted without bias using systematic methods and procedures
- C. Degree to which each research process, instrument, and tool is related to each other
- D. Extent to which research findings can be applied to larger population.
- E. Following rigorous scientific methods and procedures.
- F. Repeatability of any research, research instrument, tool or procedure.
- G. Repeated research design and procedures to enable the researcher to arrive at valid and conclusive results.
- H. Strength with which we can make research conclusions, assumptions or propositions true or false.
- I. The only approach to carry on a research.
- J. Use of the best source of information and best procedures in research.





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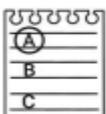
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## Answer Key

What I know

Answer may vary.

What's New

### A. Before Reading Activity

Answers may vary

### C. After Reading Activity

1. Answer may vary
2. D
3. Answer may vary
4. Answer may vary
5. Answer may vary

### What's More

#### Activity 1

Characteristic of Research	Meaning
	Answer: <i>Research is based on direct experience or observation by the researcher.</i>
Answer: <i>Logical</i>	Answer: <i>Research is a cyclical process because it starts with a problem and ends with a problem.</i>
Answer: <i>Analytical</i>	Answer: <i>Research exhibits careful and precise judgment.</i>
Answer: <i>Methodical</i>	
Answer: <i>Replicability</i>	

#### Activity 2

The Research Process	
According to www.nhcc.edu	According to research-methodology.net
1. Identify and develop your topic	1. Selecting the research area
2. Do a preliminary search for information	2. Formulating research aim, objectives and research questions or developing hypotheses
3. Locate materials	3. Conducting the literature review. Literature review is usually the longest stage in the research process
4. Evaluate your sources	4. Selecting methods of data collection
5. Make notes	5. Collecting the primary data
6. Write your paper	6. Data analysis
7. Cite your sources properly	7. Reaching conclusions
8. Proofread	8. Completing the research

#### Activity 3

Answer may vary. Please refer to rubrics in grading outputs.



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**What I have learned**

Answer may vary.

**What I Can Do**

Answer may vary.

**Assessment**

1. D
2. B
3. D
4. C
5. B

**Additional Activities**

Answers may vary

**NOTE:** The facilitator/teacher should see to it that he/she watched the video for proper grading of output.



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