

Korynne Taylor-Dunlop, Ed.D.
Center for Educational Leadership
and Accountability, Oakdale, NY
Doctoral Program

Analyzing and Assessing Research

- 1. All research has a fundamental PURPOSE and goal.**
 - Research purposes and goals should be clearly stated.
 - Related purposes should be explicitly distinguished.
 - All segments of the research should be relevant to the purpose.
 - All research purposes should be realistic and significant.

- 2. All research addresses a fundamental QUESTION, problem or issue.**
 - The fundamental question at issue should be clearly and precisely stated.
 - Related questions should be articulated and distinguished.
 - All segments of the research should be relevant to the central question.
 - All research questions should be realistic and significant.
 - All research questions should define clearly stated intellectual tasks that, being fulfilled, settle the questions.

- 3. All research identifies data, INFORMATION, and evidence relevant to its fundamental question and purpose.**
 - All information used should be clear, accurate, and relevant to the fundamental question at issue.
 - Information gathered must be sufficient to settle the question at issue.
 - Information contrary to the main conclusions of the research should be explained.

- 4. All research contains INFERENCES or interpretations by which conclusions are drawn.**
 - All conclusions should be clear, accurate, and relevant to the key question at issue.
 - Conclusions drawn should not go beyond what the data imply.
 - Conclusions should be consistent and reconcile discrepancies in the data.
 - Conclusions should explain how the key questions at issue have been settled.

5. **All research is conducted from some POINT OF VIEW or frame of reference.**
 - All points of view in the research should be identified.
 - Objections from competing points of view should be identified and fairly addressed.

6. **All research is based on ASSUMPTIONS.**
 - Clearly identify and assess major assumptions in the research.
 - Explain how the assumptions shape the research point of view.

7. **All research is expressed through, and shaped by, CONCEPTS and idea.**
 - Assess for clarity the key concepts in the research.
 - Assess the significance of the key concepts in the research.

8. **All research leads somewhere (i.e., have IMPLICATIONS and consequences).**
 - Trace the implications and consequences that follow from the research.
 - Search for negative as well as positive implications.
 - Consider all significant implications and consequences.

Critical Thinking Concepts and Tools (Paul and Elder, 2009)