

TEST BANK

Essentials of Nursing Research

Appraising Evidence for Nursing Practice

Denise F. Polit, Cheryl Tatano Beck

10th Edition

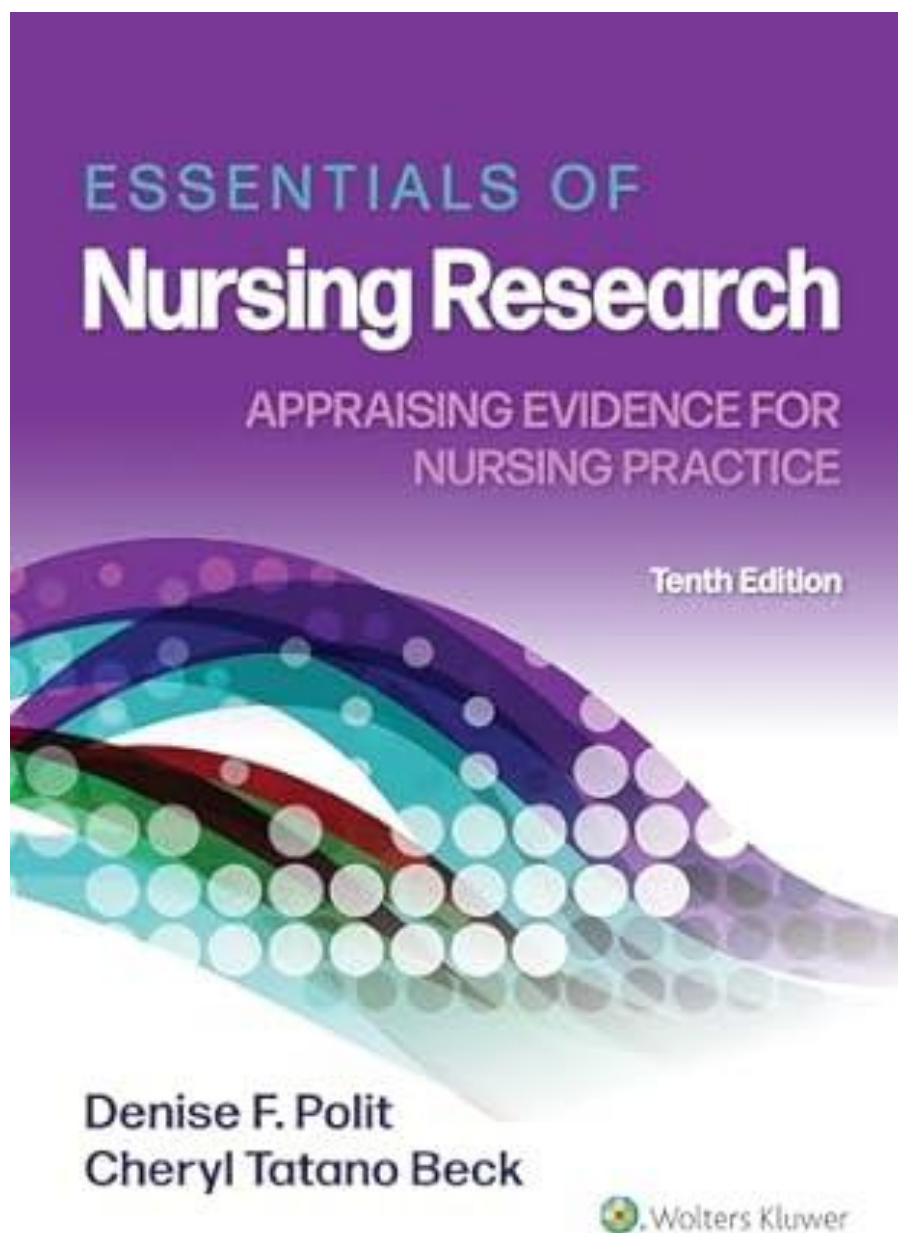


Table of Contents

Part 1 Overview of Nursing Research and Its Role in Evidence-Based Practice

- 1 Introducing Nursing Research for Evidence-Based Practice
- 2 Understanding Key Concepts and Steps in Quantitative and Qualitative Research
- 3 Reading and Critically Appraising Research Articles
- 4 Attending to Ethics in Research

Part 2 Preliminary Steps in Quantitative and Qualitative Research

- 5 Identifying Research Problems, Research Questions, and Hypotheses
- 6 Finding and Reviewing Research Evidence in the Literature
- 7 Understanding Theoretical and Conceptual Frameworks

Part 3 Designs and Methods for Quantitative and Qualitative Nursing Research

- 8 Appraising Quantitative Research Design
- 9 Appraising Sampling and Data Collection in Quantitative Studies
- 10 Appraising Qualitative Designs and Approaches
- 11 Appraising Sampling and Data Collection in Qualitative Studies
- 12 Understanding Mixed Methods Research, Quality Improvement, and Other Special Types of Research

Part 4 Analysis, Interpretation, and Application of Nursing Research

- 13 Understanding Statistical Analysis of Quantitative Data
- 14 Interpreting Quantitative Findings and Evaluating Clinical Significance
- 15 Understanding the Analysis of Qualitative Data
- 16 Appraising Trustworthiness and Integrity in Qualitative Research
- 17 Learning From Systematic Reviews
- 18 Putting Research Evidence Into Practice: Evidence-Based Practice and Practice-Based Evidence

Chapter 1- Introducing Nursing Research for Evidence-Based Practice

1. Which of the following groups would be best served by the development of a scientific base for nursing practice?
 - A) Nursing administrators
 - B) Practicing nurses
 - C) Nurses' clients
 - D) Health care policymakers

Ans: C

Feedback:

Nursing research is systematic inquiry designed to develop trustworthy evidence about issues of importance to nurses and their clients. Nurse leaders recognize the need to base specific nursing decisions on evidence indicating that the decisions are clinically appropriate, cost-effective, and result in positive client outcomes. Although all of the people listed would benefit from the development of a scientific base for nursing practice, ultimately it is the clients themselves who would most benefit, as they would then receive the most appropriate and most effective care.

2. An especially important goal for the nursing profession is to do which of the following?
 - A) Conduct research to better understand the context of nursing practice
 - B) Establish a solid base of evidence for practice through disciplined research
 - C) Document the role nursing serves in society
 - D) Establish research priorities

Ans: B

Feedback:

Nurses are increasingly expected to understand and undertake research and to base their practice on evidence from research. Evidence-based practice is the use of the best evidence in making patient care decisions and typically comes from research conducted by nurses and other health-care professionals. All of the other answers are possible goals for the nursing profession, but none is as important as establishing evidence for practice.

3. Which of the following is a fundamental belief of those who hold to the constructivist paradigm?
 - A) A fixed reality exists in nature for humans to understand
 - B) The nature of reality has changed over time
 - C) Reality is multiply constructed and multiply interpreted by humans
 - D) Reality cannot be studied empirically

Ans: C

Feedback:

In the constructivist paradigm, it is assumed that reality is not a fixed entity but is rather a construction of human minds—and thus “truth” is a composite of multiple constructions of reality. However, constructivists do believe that reality can be studied empirically. Belief in a fixed reality that exists in nature for humans to understand would be an example of a positivist belief, not a constructivist one. The constructivist belief does not hold so much that the nature of reality has changed over time as that it

has always been constructed by human minds.

4. Which of the following is a fundamental belief of those who hold to the positivist paradigm?
- A) The researcher is objective and independent of those being studied
 - B) The researcher cannot interact with those being studied
 - C) The researcher instructs those being studied to be objective in providing information
 - D) The distance between the researcher and those being researched is minimized to enhance the interactive process

Ans: A

Feedback:

In the positivist paradigm, it is assumed that there is an objective reality and that natural phenomena are regular and orderly. In the constructivist paradigm, it is assumed that reality is not a fixed entity but is rather a construction of human minds—and thus “truth” is a composite of multiple constructions of reality.

5. Which of the following attributes is *least* characteristic of the traditional scientific method?
- A) Control over external factors
 - B) Systematic measurement and observation of natural phenomena
 - C) Testing of hunches deduced from theory or prior research
 - D) Emphasis on a holistic view of a phenomenon, studied in a rich context

Ans: D

Feedback:

Quantitative research (associated with positivism) involves the collection and analysis of numeric information. Quantitative research is typically conducted within the traditional scientific method, which is systematic and controlled. Quantitative researchers base their findings on empirical evidence (evidence collected by way of the human senses) and strive for generalizability beyond a single setting or situation. Constructivist researchers emphasize understanding human experience as it is lived through the collection and analysis of subjective, narrative materials using flexible procedures; this paradigm is associated with qualitative research.

6. Empiricism refers to which of the following?
- A) Making generalizations from specific observations
 - B) Articulating a study purpose in terms of an appropriate classification system
 - C) Gathering evidence about real-world phenomena through the senses
 - D) Verifying the assumptions on which the study was based

Ans: C

Feedback:

Empiricism is gathering and analyzing evidence through their senses. Quantitative research involves the collection and analysis of numeric information. Quantitative

research is typically conducted within the traditional scientific method, which is systematic and controlled. Quantitative researchers base their findings on empirical evidence and strive for generalizability beyond a single setting or situation. Constructivist researchers emphasize understanding human experience as it is lived through the collection and analysis of subjective, narrative materials using flexible procedures; this paradigm is associated with qualitative research.

7. Which of the following is a hallmark of the scientific method?

- A) Rigorous
- B) Holistic
- C) Systematic
- D) Flexible

Ans: C

Feedback:

Quantitative research is typically conducted within the traditional scientific method, which is systematic and controlled. Quantitative researchers base their findings on empirical evidence and strive for generalizability beyond a single setting or situation. Constructivist researchers emphasize understanding human experience as it is lived through the collection and analysis of subjective, narrative materials using flexible procedures; this paradigm is associated with qualitative research.

8. Which of the following limits the capacity of the scientific method to answer questions about humans?

- A) The necessity of departing from traditional beliefs
- B) The difficulty of accurately measuring complex human traits
- C) The lack of funding for research
- D) The shortage of theories about human behavior

Ans: B

Feedback:

Nursing research focuses on human beings, who are inherently complicated and diverse. The traditional scientific method typically focuses on a relatively small aspect of human experiences in a single study. Complexities tend to be controlled and, if possible, eliminated rather than studied directly, and this narrowness of focus can sometimes obscure insights.

9. The classic scientific method has its intellectual roots in which of the following?

- A) Positivism
- B) Determinism
- C) Constructivism
- D) Empiricism

Ans: A

Feedback:

In the positivist paradigm, it is assumed that there is an objective reality and that natural

phenomena are regular and orderly. The related assumption of determinism refers to the belief that phenomena result from prior causes and are not haphazard. In the constructivist paradigm, it is assumed that reality is not a fixed entity but is rather a construction of human minds—and thus “truth” is a composite of multiple constructions of reality. Although the word empiricism has come to be allied with the classic scientific method, researchers in both traditions gather and analyze evidence empirically, that is, through their senses.

10. Constructivist qualitative research typically does which of the following?
- A) Involves deductive processes
 - B) Attempts to control the research context to better understand the phenomenon being studied
 - C) Involves gathering narrative, subjective materials
 - D) Focuses on numeric information
- Ans: C
- Feedback:**
In the constructivist paradigm, it is assumed that reality is not a fixed entity but is rather a construction of human minds—and thus “truth” is a composite of multiple constructions of reality. In the positivist paradigm, it is assumed that there is an objective reality and that natural phenomena are regular and orderly. Constructivist researchers emphasize understanding human experience as it is lived through the collection and analysis of subjective, narrative materials using flexible procedures; this paradigm is associated with qualitative research. The other answers are truer of positivist, quantitative research.
11. Quantitative and qualitative research share which of the following features? Select all that apply.
- A) A desire to understand the true state of human affairs
 - B) An emphasis on formal measurement
 - C) A reliance on external evidence collected through the senses
 - D) Utility to the nursing profession
- Ans: A, C, D
- Feedback:**
Both quantitative and qualitative research share a desire to understand the true state of human affairs, a reliance on external evidence collected through the senses, and utility to the nursing profession. However, quantitative, not qualitative, research emphasizes formal measurement.
12. Which of the following is a descriptive question that a qualitative researcher most likely would ask?
- A) What is the nature of this phenomenon?
 - B) What is the average intensity of this phenomenon?
 - C) How frequently does this phenomenon occur?

D) What is the average duration of this phenomenon?

Ans: A

Feedback:

Description of phenomena is an important purpose of research. In descriptive studies, researchers count, delineate, and classify. Nurse-researchers have described a wide variety of phenomena, such as patients' stress, health beliefs, and so on. Quantitative description focuses on the prevalence, size, and measurable aspects of phenomena. Qualitative researchers describe the nature, dimensions, and salience of phenomena

13. A researcher wants to investigate the effect of patients' body position on blood pressure. The study would most likely be of which type?

- A) Qualitative
- B) Quantitative
- C) Either quantitative or qualitative (researcher preference)
- D) Insufficient information to determine

Ans: B

Feedback:

Because this study would involve a measurable, numeric outcome—blood pressure—it should most likely be a quantitative study.

14. A researcher wants to explore the process by which men make decisions about treatment for prostate cancer. The researcher's paradigm is most likely which of the following?

- A) Positivism
- B) Determinism
- C) Empiricism
- D) Constructivism

Ans: D

Feedback:

As this study involves gathering subjective, non-measurable data, the researcher's paradigm is most likely constructivism. Positivism is not likely, as there is no emphasis on an objective, orderly reality. Determinism, which refers to the belief that phenomena result from prior causes and are not haphazard, is not pertinent here. Although the research will involve empiricism, or gathering information using the senses, this is not the primary paradigm.

15. Which of the following would be most strongly associated with cause-probing research?

- A) Identification
- B) Description
- C) Exploration
- D) Explanation

Ans: D

Feedback:

A fundamental distinction that is especially relevant in quantitative research is between