

# A Checklist

The criteria discussed in this chapter are combined in the checklist presented here. This checklist may be used to guide consumers of qualitative inquiries in their critiques of qualitative proposals and reports. Clearly, availability of a good audit trail and access to the inquirer's field notes would facilitate the use of this checklist in judging the quality of a study. However, audit trails and field notes are rarely available for most studies found in the literature because they take up too much space. The checklist may also be used to plan and conduct qualitative studies.

1. Is a meaningful topic addressed?
2. Is qualitative inquiry appropriate for the topic?
3. Are people treated ethically?
4. Are natural conditions maintained as closely as possible?
5. Is the report well written?
  - a. Does it communicate well?
  - b. Does it address conflicting results?
  - c. Does it include descriptions of the researcher, the data gathered, and the conditions under which data were gathered?
  - d. Does it include analysis and synthesis of the data?
6. Is the study **credible**?
  - a. Is prolonged engagement adequate?
  - b. Is persistent observation adequate?
  - c. Is triangulation adequate?
  - d. Is peer debriefing adequate?
  - e. Is negative case analysis adequate?

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- f. Are progressive subjectivity checks made?
  - g. Is the emic perspective highlighted?
  - h. Are member checks adequate?
7. Is thick description adequate to make **transferability** of the study likely?
8. Is the study **dependable**?
- a. Is an adequate audit trail maintained?
  - b. Was an audit conducted? Do results support dependability?
  - c. Are data collection and analysis procedures adequate? Has the researcher been careless or made mistakes in conceptualizing the study, sampling people and events, collecting the data, interpreting the findings, or reporting results?
9. Is the study **confirmable**?
- a. Is an adequate audit trail maintained?
  - b. Was an audit conducted? Do results support confirmability?
  - c. How adequate are the findings? How well are they supported by people and events that are independent of the inquirer?



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