

# Research Design Checklist

Graziano and Raulin  
Research Methods Text

## I. Initial Problem Definition

1. Literature review completed?
2. Problem statement developed?
3. Variables identified and operationally defined?

## II. Research Hypothesis

4. Research hypothesis clearly states expected relationship among the variables?

## III. Statistical Analysis

5. Descriptive statistics planned?
6. Inferential statistics planned?
7. Post hoc or secondary analyses planned?

## IV. Theoretical Basis

8. Theoretical base for study clear?
9. Do hypotheses and procedures address the issues?

## V. Independent Variable Manipulation (experimental research)

10. Independent variable manipulations planned?
11. Manipulations pretested?
12. Manipulation check planned?

## VI. Dependent Measures

13. Dependent measures operationally defined?
14. Dependent measures piloted?
15. Reliability and validity data available?
16. Did you include procedures to measure reliability?

## VII. Controls

17. Controls for threats to internal validity in place?
18. Controls for threats to external validity in place?

## VIII. Participants

### A. Participant Selection

19. Sample adequately represent target population?
20. Demographic variables measured?

## B. Sample Size

21. Sample sufficiently large?

## C. Participant Assignment

22. Participants properly assigned to conditions (experimental research)?
23. Groups carefully defined (differential research)?
24. Information on the matching preserved for analysis (matched-subjects design)?

## D. Participant Availability

25. Participants available?
26. Participants scheduled?
27. Participant-fee procedures ready?

## E. Research Ethics

28. IRB approval obtained (human research)?
29. Informed consent forms available (human research)?
30. Debriefing and/or feedback procedures ready (human research)?
31. Ethical guidelines checked and research approved (animal research)?

## IX. Preparation of the Setting

### A. Space and Equipment

32. Adequate space available?
33. Free of distractions?
34. Equipment checked?

### B. Personnel

35. Sufficient research staff?
36. Assistants adequately trained for emergencies?
37. Assistants adequately trained in procedures?
38. Blind procedures in place?

## X. Adequacy of Participant Preparation, Instruction, Procedures

39. Instructions to participants clear?
40. Instructions and procedures piloted?

If all check out, then you are ready to "fly."