

Psychology 441 Analysis Memo

Below I outline what I would like to see in your class project memo. I imagine that these memos will be approximately five pages. I suspect that you can write one paragraph to describe materials, a second to describe trustworthiness, and a third to describe the process. Your discussion of limitations should be from two to four paragraphs, leaving the rest of the paper for analysis.

Section Heading and Grading Category:

Points:

Materials

5

Describe the set of transcripts upon which you focused. Don't forget to mention any important demographic information. Make it clear why you selected the transcripts that you did. I expect you to draw from at least two transcripts.

Trustworthiness

5

As we discussed in class, why should the reader believe your analysis. I would mention any validity threat and response that you deem relevant – including whether you are analyzing a transcript from your own interview or not. You might also mention how you made sure that you considered alternative interpretations (e.g., negative case, peer review).

Process

3

Did you read and reread? Focus on different voices?
Did you code line by line? Did you write general summaries?
Did you “bracket” your own reactions?
Did you circle red flags? Did you map out the story?

Analysis

7

I would like you to present and support your analysis. You should illustrate your analysis with relevant quotes. If you approached your data as a set of narratives, I expect a sample story or summary of the typical story's properties. If you approached your data as a phenomenological analysis, I would expect to see a list of meaning clusters and a prototypical description. Don't be afraid to present tables or diagrams (even if you don't have an example for each “cell” in your typology, you can still present your idea). You might document the word choices used by participants or any contradictions to your theme. I recommend reviewing any of the data sections for any of the course readings or even class handouts to see how qualitative researchers present their data. Do not be afraid to use numbers (e.g., “In all five of the how we met stories, you notice...”). I am looking for something a bit unexpected, but reasonable (suggesting a deep and considered analysis). You can draw upon the conceptual frameworks to help structure your analysis.

Implications

5

Here is your chance to speculate on implications and limitations. What conclusions can you draw? Does your analysis support current understandings of adult friendship? Why or why not? What new issues or questions should psychological researchers consider? Why should we care about this research? Should we treat these results with caution? Why or why not?

Total: 25

Email me if you have any questions!