

Current Topics in Sociology - A Methodological Approach

University of Warsaw: Faculty of Psychology

Fall 2026

Assignment 2

Group Research Report

The purpose of the Group Research Report is for students to demonstrate, in a group setting, knowledge of investigative approaches in sociology; specifically, students are to understand the flow from concept definition to observation, measurement, and analysis.

In this document you will find the report guidelines.

Guidelines

You are to work independently and communicate your work in English-language writing. Please complete and submit this report by **November 25, 2026**. Please email the report as a .docx or .odt file **(PDF and Google Docs are not allowed)** to the instructor: jdubrow2000@gmail.com. Please see syllabus for more details.

Using AI-assistance

Use of ChatGPT, Claude, Google Gemini, and other AI-assistants is acceptable. If you do use them, **you must acknowledge that you used them and how you used it for this assignment**. AI is a powerful tool for social scientists; learning how best to use it will benefit your career. You must write this acknowledgement at the beginning of your Research Report.

The report has three main parts:

- (1) definitions of the concepts, worth 40 percent of the grade for this report
- (2) descriptions of the mode of data collection and form of analysis, worth 30 percent
- (3) measurements of the concepts, worth 30 percent.

Please note!

- Your measurement of the concepts must match your definitions of the concepts. This match between definition and measurement is a core aspect of the research report.
- I expect full sentences; no bullet points allowed.
- In structuring the report, please follow the structure of these guidelines. Please be sure to include the names of every member of your group, as well as the date, course title, and "Assignment 2: Group Research Report."
- There will be one grade for all members of the group. **Groups can be minimum three people, and no more than five people.**

(1) Definitions of the concepts (40%)

From the list of variables below, at the minimum choose one Dependent Variable (DV, the thought or behavior you want to explain) and one Independent Variable (IV, the thought or behavior that explains the DV). You can assume that the IV theoretically has a direct relationship with the DV.

List:

- Current Employment Status (student, retiree, employed, unemployed, etc.)
- Intersection of gender * age
- Intersection of religiosity * age
- Political efficacy
- Racial or ethnic bias
- Gender traditionalism or Gender egalitarianism
- Attitudes toward immigrants
- Your choice

For example, you can choose “Intersection of Gender and Age” as the IV and “Racial Bias” as the DV. For “Your Choice,” you can choose any concept you wish, so long as you are able to define it within the scientific literature. **You can only choose “Your choice” for either the IV or the DV, but not both.**

Concept definition

You are to define the two concepts of your choice, i.e. both the IV and the DV. Your definition of the IV should be min. 50 words and max. 200 words. Your definition of the DV should be min. 50 words and max. 200 words.

Theory

After the definition, you are to pose a theory as to the relationship between the IV and the DV. The theory can be a speculation or based on an actual theory – in any case it should be an intellectually satisfying explanation. The setting for the data collection would be Poland, so the theory should mention how the concepts relate within the Polish context.

You should express this theory with min. 100 words and max. 200 words. For this section, you are to cite at least two articles published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. Citations must be in-text.

(2) Description of the mode of data collection and form of data analysis (30%)

In this section, you describe the mode of data collection and form of analysis. Imagine that you have a 24 month Preludium grant from Poland’s National Science Centre with a budget of PLN 140,000. Will you do a survey? A qualitative study with in-depth interviews?

Who is the target population? Will it be collected face-to-face, or an online survey, or...? You can choose any mode of data collection you wish, so long as it is feasible.

You are to describe the data collection with min. 100 to max. 200 words.

Afterwards, describe the form of data analysis. For surveys, it would likely be statistical analysis. You can be as creative as you would like, so long as the form of analysis matches the data. This can be expressed in one short sentence, or it can be up to 100 words, depending on your interest.

(3) Measurement of the concepts (30%)

In this section, you will describe how you will measure the concepts. For example, if you choose gender in a survey format, how will you measure the concept? The measurement of the concepts must match your mode of data collection and should be as detailed as possible.

If this is a quantitative project using surveys, you must present examples of the exact wording of your survey items. For example, it is not enough to write that you used the Future Time Perspective (FTP) scale; you must provide examples of items from that scale to describe it. You must describe how they are valid measures of the concept.

You are to describe the measurement of both the IV and the DV. Your definition of the measurement of the IV should be min. 100 words and max. 200 words. Your definition of the measurement of the DV should be min. 100 words and max. 200 words.

Tip: For inspiration, consult the questionnaires of well-known datasets, such as the Polish Panel Survey (POLPAN) or the European Social Survey. You can also consult well-known psychological surveys. I welcome well-thought modifications of well-known questionnaire items! As always, cite your sources.

At a glance

Task	Word Count
(1) Concept definition	
Independent variable	50 – 200 words
Dependent variable	50 – 200 words
Theory	100 – 200 words
Citation of a peer-reviewed article	Usually ca. 20-30 words
(2) Description of data and analysis	
Data collection	100 – 200 words
Analysis	One sentence (ca. 20 words) to 100 words
(3) Measurement of the concepts	
Independent variable	100 – 200 words
Dependent variable	100 – 200 words