

SAMPLE SCHOLARLY ADVISORY BRIEF

Quantitative Research Design Consultation

ILLUSTRATIVE EXCERPT · NOT A CLIENT DELIVERABLE · DOCTORAL ADVISORY

What this sample demonstrates

[This fabricated brief shows feedback a doctoral scholar might receive through DisserIQ's Quantitative Research Design Consultation. It demonstrates how a focused review connects variables, measurement, sampling, validity, reliability, and analytic fit without taking over the research project. It makes the next methodological decisions visible, explains why they matter, and prepares the scholar for a more precise academic conversation.]

Illustrative scholarly situation

[The scenario below is fictional and is offered only as an instructional example. A doctoral researcher is planning a cross-sectional survey study of online doctoral students. The working purpose is to examine whether perceived instructor feedback timeliness and peer interaction are associated with students' intention to persist in their program. The scholar has named the target population as online doctoral students at a regional university, proposes a voluntary survey link distributed through program newsletters, and expects to use a short, self-developed set of rating-scale items. The design notes identify correlations and a regression model as possible analytic options.]

Diagnostic observations

Observation 1: Construct labels need a variable-level translation.

Feedback timeliness and peer interaction are promising constructs, but each needs an operational definition that specifies what will be observed or scored. For example, "timeliness" could refer to speed, consistency, or adequacy relative to stated expectations. The distinction matters because a broad construct can otherwise yield measures that capture different experiences and make the research question difficult to interpret.

Observation 2: The proposed outcome measure needs a stronger measurement rationale.

Intention to persist is central to the study, yet a short self-developed item set may not show adequate construct coverage or measurement consistency. The scholar should compare the intended definition with available evidence about established measures, response formats, and use in similar populations. This decision bears directly on reliability and on whether the observed score supports the intended claim.

Observation 3: The sampling frame limits the reach of the proposed population statement.

A newsletter invitation reaches students who receive and notice that channel, not necessarily every online doctoral student at the university. That difference has implications for coverage, volunteer response, and external validity. The scholar should define the accessible population, document eligibility criteria, and make sample-size planning assumptions explicit before treating the sample as representative.

Observation 4: The analytic pathway requires a question-to-variable crosswalk.

Correlation and regression can be plausible options, but fit depends on the outcome's scale, predictor coding, the role of covariates, and the associational purpose. A crosswalk identifies what each question requires, which variables supply the evidence, and which assumptions deserve verification. This protects the study from selecting an approach before measurement and sampling choices are sufficiently clear.

DISSERIQ / SCHOLAR-OWNED REVISION PATH

A disciplined next step, not a substitute for scholarship.

Revision pathway

Scholar-owned next step

1. **Define the study claim and variables.** The scholar first distinguishes the broader constructs from the variables that will represent them, then records an operational definition and intended level of measurement for each one.
2. **Make a measurement decision with evidence in view.** The scholar compares candidate instruments or item sets against construct coverage, response format, prior reliability evidence, and fit with the local study context, documenting the rationale for the selected plan.
3. **Reconcile sampling and analytic fit.** The scholar states the accessible population and sampling approach, identifies feasible sample-size planning assumptions, and uses a question-to-variable map to test whether the proposed analytic approach fits the design's scope.

Questions for the scholar

- 01 Which aspect of feedback timeliness must be measured for the research question to retain its intended meaning?
- 02 What evidence would persuade you that a proposed measure represents persistence intention rather than a related construct such as satisfaction?
- 03 If the accessible sample is narrower than the stated population, how should the study's claims and limitations be bounded?

Academic-integrity boundary

This illustrative brief models developmental methodology consultation, not a substitute for the scholar's independent scholarly work. The scholar remains the author and decision-maker for every research choice, methodological rationale, revision, and submission. DisserIQ provides diagnostic feedback, methodological reasoning, and planning tools that the scholar evaluates and applies in accordance with relevant program and institutional requirements.

Engagement snapshot

Offer: Quantitative Research Design Consultation **Price:** \$ 295 **Timeline:** 3 business days **Example deliverables:** a Quantitative Design Coherence Memo organized around alignment, sampling, instrumentation, validity and reliability, and analytic fit; a Prioritized Action List; an Annotated Alignment Map linking each research question or hypothesis to variables, measure or data source, sampling consideration, and candidate analytic approach; and one Focused Follow-Up Memo Revision that clarifies the original advisory feedback.

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