Research Article Criteria

1. **Title of the Periodical.**
   - Research publications typically use the word *journal* or *quarterly* in their titles or subtitles:
     - *Journal of the American Medical Association*
     - *Journal of Drug Issues*
     - *Sociological Quarterly*
     - *Sociology of Health & Illness: A Journal of Medical Sociology*.

2. **Title of the Article.**
   - Articles in research publications often have titles that specifically state the subjects and the issues studied:
     - “Rural pregnant cocaine users: An in-depth sociodemographic comparison.”
       - A research article about women who use cocaine while pregnant and who live in rural settings.
     - “Can you write your way to good health”
       - Not a research article.

3. **Major Components to a Research Article.**
   - Research articles generally contain the following components:
     - Title of the Article
     - Author(s) of the Article
     - Author’s Affiliation
     - An Abstract of the Article
     - An Overview of Prior Research
     - Author’s Hypothesis
     - Subjects Studied
     - Methodology Used
     - Statistical Analysis of the Results
     - A Discussion of the Results
     - A Conclusion
     - A Bibliography
   - Does every research article have every item listed?
     - No, but out of the twelve components, there should be at least seven for it to be research.

4. **Intended audience of the publication.**
   - The intended audience indicates the type of article you have. There are 3 basic types of periodicals:
- Magazines
  - Publications designed for the non-expert or general public.
    - *Psychology Today*
    - *Newsweek*
    - *Time*
- Professional Magazines
  - Publications that target professionals in a specified field to keep them current in their discipline.
    - *The Family Therapy Networker*
- Journals
  - Journals include articles written by scholars and researchers who have specialized in a particular area. Their primary audiences are other experts and researchers in that area.
    - *Journal of Chemical Dependency Treatment*
    - *Journal of Marriage and Family Therapy*
    - *Journal of Personality*

5. You need an article showing original research. Is a review, a meta-analysis, or a descriptive article acceptable? Check the title!
   - Avoid articles with these phrases in the title:
     - Review of the Research
     - Literature Review
     - Meta-analysis of the Research
   - In a review or meta-analysis, the author is not doing original research. The author has compiled and evaluated other people’s research.
   - In a descriptive article, the author has created an overview of important research that was originally published elsewhere. Find the original article.

6. Are magazine surveys research?
   - No. The participants are self-selected as opposed to being subjects in a research study in which they are selected by the researchers.
   - These types of surveys are not subject to the same rigorous testing to determine the validity and reliability of the survey instruments that researchers use.