



The Empirical Study Common Questions

Writing Center Hours:

8:30 AM – 8:30 PM M–Th, 8:30 AM– 4:30 PM F

Email: okc.tutoring@okstate.edu

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Definition: An empirical study is a study that you conduct yourself in order to answer your research question from essay three. You'll present a research question, include a literature review (part 1 – A literature review is essentially a research paper focusing on secondary sources), describe the kind of experiment you'll conduct, report your findings, and consider what the public believes is the answer to your research question.

Common Questions:

Question: *What do I write about?*

Answer: Your job is to conduct research over a chosen topic, describe what current research suggests about your topic, and explore what research still needs to be done, to conduct a study over a chosen topic, propose a research question, describe what current opinion on the answer to that question, and present data from your study.

Question: *How do I start?*

Answer: Begin by conducting the research over your topic. Then determine common answers, and establish what is not answered in your research.

Question: *How do I end it?*

Answer: A good way to end is by summarizing your main points and restating your overall response to the research question. You may leave the reader with an additional question or something to ponder.



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Question: *How do I conduct a study?*

Answer: When conducting a study or experiment, you have several options for conducting primary research:

Types of Primary Research

- Interview people
- Survey people
- Conduct an experiment
- Conduct observations on people
- Conduct observations of places
- Conduct observations of things
 - Documents
 - Media
 - Websites/social media
 - Products
 - Other

Question: *What do I do in the “Literature Review” section of my essay?*

Answer: Analyze each resource and its answer to your research topic. What is done well in the sources? Briefly summarize their answer to your question.

Question: *What do I do in the “Further Research Needed” section of my essay?*

Answer: What answer was missing from your research? What lingering questions do you still have after conducting your research? Why can you not fully answer the question?



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Question: *How do I compare rhetorical features across articles?*

Answer: This comes down to opinion. Do YOU think that the author effectively made their point, or do you think that there was a better way that they could have gone about it? Which author had better use of each rhetorical feature you are analyzing?

Question: *What do I do if my essay isn't long enough?*

Answer: Quotes, examples, reasons – oh my! Check to make sure that you clearly explain your reasoning for each point of the essay. If you have and it still isn't long enough, try adding some quotes and examples to further illustrate your point.