



# Research Methods in Education

*By Joseph W. Check, Russell K. Schutt*

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**Research Methods in Education** introduces research methods as an integrated set of techniques for investigating questions about the educational world. This lively, innovative text helps students connect technique and substance, appreciate the value of both qualitative and quantitative methodologies, and make ethical research decisions. It weaves actual research "stories" into the presentation of research topics, and it emphasizes validity, authenticity, and practical significance as overarching research goals.

The text is divided into three sections: **Foundations of Research** (5 chapters), **Research Design and Data Collection** (7 chapters), and **Analyzing and Reporting Data** (3 chapters). This tripartite conceptual framework honors traditional quantitative approaches while reflecting the growing popularity of qualitative studies, mixed method designs, and school-based techniques. This approach provides a comprehensive, conceptually unified, and well-written introduction to the exciting but complex field of educational research.

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### Editorial Review

#### About the Author

**Joseph W. Check, Ph.D.** is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Educational Leadership in the Graduate College of Education, University of Massachusetts, Boston. He completed his B.A. at Boston College and his M.A. and Ph.D. in English at Tufts University. His prior publications include *Politics, Language, and Culture: A Critical Look at Urban School Reform* (Praeger, 2002), co-editorship of *Writing Within School Reform*, a monograph series of the Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University, and book chapters and articles on literacy, practitioner inquiry, and urban school reform. He has supervised dissertations in school reform, professional development, literacy, home/school interactions, and special education. He has served as Principal or Co-Principal Investigator for numerous grant-funded professional development programs including a 4-year, \$4M practitioner inquiry project in 14 urban school districts, funded by the DeWitt-Wallace Reader's Digest Foundation. He is an experienced classroom instructor in master's and doctoral level research courses.

**Russell K. Schutt, PhD**, is a professor and the chair of sociology at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and a lecturer on sociology in the Department of Psychiatry at the Harvard Medical School (Massachusetts Mental Health Center). He completed his BA, MA, and PhD (1977) at the University of Illinois at Chicago and a postdoctoral fellowship in the Sociology of Social Control Training Program at Yale University (1977–1979). His other books include *Investigating the Social World: The Process and Practice of Research*, *Fundamentals of Social Work Research* (with Ray Engel), *Making Sense of the Social World* (with Dan Chambliss), and *Research Methods in Psychology* (with Paul G. Nestor)—all with SAGE Publications, as well as *Homelessness, Housing, and Mental Illness* (Harvard University Press) and *Social Neuroscience: Brain, Mind, and Society* (coedited with Larry J. Seidman and Matcheri S. Keshavan, also Harvard University Press). Most of his peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters focus on the effect of social context on cognition, satisfaction, functioning, and recidivism; the orientations of service recipients and of service and criminal justice personnel; and the organization of health and social services. He is currently a coinvestigator for a randomized trial of peer support for homeless dually diagnosed veterans funded by the Veterans Administration.

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