Criteria	Exceeds Expectations (A)	Competency Met (B)	Competency Partially Met (C)	Some Progress, but Competency Not met (D)
Overall Writing, APA, and Ethical Use of Sources	Writing is polished, professional, and clearly appropriate for social work scholarship and practice audiences. APA formatting is correct throughout. All sources are accurately cited, ethically used, and clearly distinguished from the writer's voice. Demonstrates strong attention to research ethics and professional communication. Grammar and punctuation are clear and consistent.	Writing is clear and appropriate with minor lapses. APA formatting is mostly correct with few errors. Sources are generally distinguished from the writer's voice. Demonstrates adequate attention to ethical use of research. Minor grammar or punctuation issues.	Writing is uneven or imprecise. APA formatting errors are noticeable. Distinctions between the writer's voice and sources are sometimes unclear. Ethical use of sources is inconsistent. Grammar and punctuation errors occasionally distract from meaning.	Writing lacks clarity or professional tone. APA formatting is incorrect or inconsistent. Citations are missing or inaccurate. Writer's voice and sources are consistently unclear. Ethical use of research is not demonstrated. Grammar and punctuation errors interfere with understanding.
Abstract	Provides a concise, accurate, and compelling summary of the research purpose, methods, findings, and relevance to social work practice or policy. Clearly reflects research-to-practice and/or practice-to-research connections.	Provides a clear summary of the study with most key elements included and some indication of practice relevance.	Summary is incomplete, overly vague, or missing clear connections to social work practice or research implications.	Abstract is unclear, includes irrelevant information, or fails to summarize the study or its relevance.
Introduction & Practice Context	Clearly establishes the research problem grounded in social work practice, policy, or population needs. Demonstrates strong	Research focus and practice relevance are clear and appropriately framed.	Focus is present but the connection to social work practice or policy is underdeveloped or unclear.	Lacks a clear research focus or meaningful connection to social work practice or policy.

Criteria	Exceeds Expectations (A)	Competency Met (B)	Competency Partially Met (C)	Some Progress, but Competency Not met (D)
	understanding of the social issue and its relevance to professional practice and research.			
Literature Review (Research-Informed Practice)	Integrates a broad range of high-quality, relevant sources. Demonstrates strong understanding of theory, evidence-based practice, and gaps in existing research. Clearly explains how prior research informs social work practice or the current study.	Uses appropriate sources and demonstrates a good understanding of relevant concepts and research. Shows some connection to practice.	Uses limited or uneven sources. Understanding of key concepts or relevance to practice is inconsistent.	Lacks clarity, uses inappropriate or insufficient sources, and demonstrates little understanding of how research informs practice.
Research Question / Hypothesis (Practice-Informed Research)	Research questions or hypotheses are clearly derived from social work practice concerns or empirical gaps. Course concepts and professional terminology are well integrated. Variables or qualitative foci are clearly and appropriately defined.	Research questions or hypotheses are clear and connected to course concepts and practice issues.	Questions show some connection to practice or course concepts, but variables or focus are unclear or poorly defined.	Research questions or hypotheses are missing, unclear, or not connected to social work practice or research concepts.
Methodology (Ethical & Culturally	Provides a detailed, accurate explanation of qualitative and/or quantitative methods with a clear, literature-based rationale. Demonstrates	Provides a clear and accurate explanation of methods with an	Methods are described but lack detail, clarity, or clear justification. Ethical or	Methods are inaccurate, incomplete, or inappropriate. Ethical considerations and

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Responsive Research)	ethical, culturally responsive, and appropriate methodological choices relevant to social work populations and settings.	appropriate rationale and basic attention to ethics.	cultural considerations are minimally addressed.	methodological rationale are missing or flawed.
Data Analysis & Findings (Application-Oriented Analysis)	Data analysis is accurate and appropriate. Statistical tests or qualitative analyses align with data and research questions. Tables/figures are clear and enhance understanding. Findings are presented objectively and clearly, with attention to relevance for social work practice or policy.	Analysis is correct and clearly presented. Tables/figures are present and labeled. Findings are stated clearly with some reference to practice relevance.	Analysis contains some errors or omissions. Tables/figures may be unclear. Findings may be overstated or weakly connected to practice.	Analysis is limited, inaccurate, or inappropriate. Tables/figures are missing. Findings are unclear, incorrect, or disconnected from social work contexts.
Discussion (Research to Practice Integration)	Demonstrates strong understanding of the research context. Findings are thoughtfully interpreted and clearly connected to social work practice, policy, populations, and existing literature. Shows critical thinking and integration of evidence into practice implications.	Provides a solid interpretation of findings with some connection to practice and literature.	Discussion lacks depth, organization, or clear integration of findings with practice or literature.	Discussion lacks focus and shows little to no connection to social work practice, policy, or research literature.

Criteria	Exceeds Expectations (A)	Competency Met (B)	Competency Partially Met (C)	Some Progress, but Competency Not met (D)
Limitations & Ethical Considerations	Clearly and accurately discusses methodological, ethical, and contextual limitations, including threats to validity and implications for practice and future research. Demonstrates strong critical reflection.	Clearly identifies limitations and demonstrates understanding of validity and ethical concerns.	Shows some awareness of limitations but lacks depth or clarity.	Does not meaningfully identify limitations or demonstrate understanding of validity or ethical concerns.
Implications for Social Work Practice, Policy, and Future Research	Presents thoughtful, original, and evidence-supported implications for social work practice, policy, and/or service delivery. Clearly articulates how findings inform practice and identifies logical next research steps grounded in practice needs.	Discusses implications for practice or policy and suggests future research directions.	Implications or conclusions are present but underdeveloped, unclear, or weakly connected to social work contexts.	Implications and future directions are missing, unclear, or unrelated to social work practice or research.