

**PILOT TESTING YOUR RESEARCH INSTRUMENT**

*Pretesting* or *pilot testing*\* is an essential step in ensuring the quality of your research procedure. Be guided by the requirements below.

**Instructions**

1. Readings: The following resources are provided on our VLE.
  - a. Ruel et al. (2016) -- Provides useful options
  - b. Dikko (2016) -- For qualitative studies only
  
2. Targets
  - a. For surveys: At least 30 and a Cronbach alpha score of at least 0.70
  - b. For interviews -- Options:
    - i. At least 3 participants
    - ii. Evaluation by 1 content expert + pretesting with at least 1 participant

For our purposes, a *content expert* should

- have an advanced degree,
- have evidence of expertise on your topic (e.g., publications and other proofs), and
- be / be formerly affiliated with a reputable institution (universities or other relevant organizations).

3. Concession

Technically, pilot testing is not part of the data collection. However, *if the pretest results show no need for a revision of your survey instrument / interview questionnaire, you can include the pretest data in the final data pool.* If you plan to do this, please ensure that:

- a. The informed consent form for the pretest (Yes, you must have one.), states that the pretest data may be included in the final dataset.

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\* For our purposes *pretesting* and *pilot testing* will be considered synonymous. Note, however, that Ruel (2016) defines them differently.

b. Your research proposal declares and justifies this choice.

This concession is meant to lessen the burden on the people you'll bother for the sake of your requirement. (Despite our declarations of the value of our research, we are ultimately an inconvenience to them.)

## References

Dikko, M. (2016). Establishing construct validity and reliability: Pilot testing of a qualitative interview for research in *takaful* (Islamic Insurance). *The Qualitative Report*, 21(3), 521-528. DOI:[10.46743/2160-3715/2016.2243](https://doi.org/10.46743/2160-3715/2016.2243)

Ruel, E., Wagner, W. E. III, & Gillespie, B. J. (2016). *The practice of survey research: Theory and applications*. SAGE.