



Open Research Working Group Guide

Preregistration, Pre-Analysis Plans, and Registered Reports

Preregistration and pre-analysis plans allow any researcher to share their methods before conducting their research. This makes research open and transparent and has further different benefits for different methodologies. For empirical research, registering your methods ahead of time improves reproducibility as methods are clearly documented and followed. For systematic reviews, registering your inclusion and exclusion criteria makes it easier to stick to the literature search strategy you preselect. For qualitative research, preregistration templates help define your methods clearly at the planning stage, inform other researchers of the parameters of your research project, and act as a public record of your positionality at the beginning of a project to enable future reflection.

Registered reports are a two-stage publishing format where a study design protocol is peer-reviewed prior to data collection. Even if you are not submitting a registered report, preregistration can deliver the benefits outlined above. This guide outlines some templates that can be used to preregister various kinds of research methods.

Preregistration/pre-analysis plan or registered report? No matter where you intend to publish, you can preregister your study in a registry such as [OSF Registries](#). Some journals have the option to submit a registered report to be peer reviewed prior to starting research and collecting data. A list of journals adopting registered reports is [here](#).

Decide what kind of research and analysis methods you are using. The type of research will affect the information you need to include in your preregistration, which preregistration templates and registry you use.

For experimental work, you can use our [ORWG guide to preregistering experimental work](#), and templates from registries such as [OSF](#) and [AsPredicted](#).

For quantitative non-experimental work you may wish to use [OSF's secondary data template](#). For research using existing datasets, it is best practice not to view the data prior to registration of your pre-analysis plan, but if this is not possible, you should indicate this in the preregistration.

For systematic reviews, you may wish to use a registry specifically designed for systematic reviews such as [PROSPERO](#) or [INPLASY](#), or alternatively use [OSF's Generalized Systematic Review template](#).

For qualitative or otherwise not predictive (i.e. postdictive) research, including ethnographic, speculative, and interpretative work, **consider using [OSF's template for qualitative research](#) or its [open-ended template](#). This [article by Haven and Van Grootel](#) is of particular use in articulating the reasons for preregistering such research.**

When submitting for peer review a research output with a preregistered study, use the registry's option to create an anonymous version for peer review.

When writing up the article, describe any deviations from the preregistered plan clearly, giving reasons for such deviations.

When your article is accepted, check the links to your preregistration are up-to-date, and update them to the non-anonymous versions.