How to do your case study: A guide for students and researchers
Naomi Pierce

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Abstract

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The overarching aim of this book is to demystify the case study and help the reader to conduct their own through a methodical and easy-to-follow process.

Each chapter addresses a particular component of the case study, from defining exactly what one is, to writing up findings. This ensures the reader can easily dip in and out of the book as required, without the need to read multiple chapters in a short space of time. This is further embedded in the structure of the book by ensuring that key reference points can be accessed immediately; the end of each chapter features a brief and informal summary, giving a snapshot of essential information in just a few lines.

As our familiarity with the case study progresses, the theory behind a chosen mode of analysis is introduced, including a brief overview of Gestalt psychology ("things should be seen in their totality" p. 47). For those who learn in a more visual way, each idea and discussion is accompanied by helpful diagrams to illustrate the author’s key points.

Any overreliance on the theoretical aspects of the case study is quickly tempered by the frequent assertion that individual logic and judgement is paramount when conducting one’s own work; a focus on the practical is key.

The ‘Your purpose’ chapter is perhaps the most valuable portion of the book, enabling the reader to thoroughly evaluate their aims and objectives behind the case study and apply these to their analytical framework. The differences between intrinsic and instrumental purpose are clearly demonstrated as being equally valid justifications for a case study – reassurance for those who enjoy learning for learning’s sake!

The write-up stage of any piece of writing is often bemoaned as the most stressful – organising one’s thoughts into something that can be easily read by an audience is not easy but, in keeping with the previous chapters, this aspect of the case study is presented to the reader as easily achievable. The use of a storyboard method – breaking down one’s writing into small parts that can be reordered as the argument develops – will prove invaluable to those who struggle with perfecting the structure of their writing.

The author also takes the time to address the varieties of case studies that exist and how the type employed can affect the final write-up; even those with a prior knowledge of the case study will appreciate this when reviewing the structure of their work.

Rather than overcomplicate the role of the case study in research *How to Do Your Case Study* provides the reader with a comprehensive guide to the process, backed up by a sound theoretical framework. With a format that allows the reader flexibility in the way that the book is used, this is a valuable guide for those who want to ensure that their case study is a clear and structured showcase of their research abilities.

*How to Do Your Case Study* cannot write your work up for you, but it can certainly make the process easier and perhaps even enjoyable.

Affiliation
Naomi Pierce, Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

Contact information
Naomi Pierce, naomi.pierce@cumbria.nhs.uk