The Research Paper Checklist
Adapted from Appendix B in *Writing for Sociology* (2nd Edition)\(^1\)

Section 1: Research Question

___ Clear, focused, and feasible research question
___ Description of variables
___ Explanation of possible relationship
___ Description of theory-testing or theory-generating research
___ Operationalized variables
___ Description of why question is meaningful

Section 2: Literature Review

___ Overview of theoretical perspectives
___ Appropriate citations, quotes, and paraphrasing
___ Explanations of errors and/or gaps in literature
___ Justification for research
___ Discussion of any relevant epistemological issues

Section 3: Research Design/Methods

___ Description of study population
___ Explanation of sampling methods and frame
___ Description of how to get entrée
___ Justification for chosen method

Section 4: Ethical Considerations

___ Addresses voluntary participation, informed consent and confidentiality
___ Minimization of risk/harm to research subjects
___ Possible benefits for participants
___ Discussion of researcher's social position/power dynamic

Section 5: Feasibility Study and Preliminary Analysis

___ Description of patterns in the data
___ Connects data to hypotheses/previous literature
___ Discusses fit of research design to research question

Section 6: Conclusion

___ Discusses possible changes
___ Main lessons
___ Connects findings to larger social issues/processes

\(^1\) Courtesy of Jennifer Randles.