SAFE Method – The Language of Analysis

Practice Complete Template – Principles 1-18

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Structural Analytical Framework for Excellence, as a *SAFE Method*, provides students with a template for the analysis of relationships between a minimum of any two concepts, including various generic principles of evaluation. Learning this template and its applications will serve as a satnav: directing how you use content material to guarantee a powerful, sophisticated, and effective analysis.

Starting point:

Description = *what the concept is, information ascribed to the concept.*

Practice:
Choose any concept/s and write a description of the concept/s.

Explanation = *How and Why one concept can explain/influence another concept: the linking of a minimum of two concepts.*

Practice:
Write explanatory sentences for any concept/s you described above.

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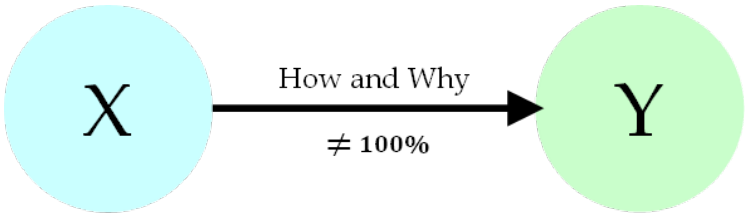
The basic cognitive model

X can explain Y; X can influence Y; X can shape Y; X can be a reason for Y; Y is influenced by X; Y can be the result of X.

Basic scientific model

X can explain Y

Lack of a 100% explanatory power – therefore we need further analysis and related evaluation.



Y = result, the explained/dependent concept = *factor/variable/issue that we need to explain and understand, the outcome; or the dependent concept/variable in experiments.*

X = reason, explaining/independent concept = *factor/variable/issue that is 'doing' the explanation; or the explanatory or independent concept/variable in experiments.*

The options of understanding the relationship, without taking into account causality:

- *X can explain how and why Y (and how and why NOT Y)*
- *X comes before Y*
- *X needs to happen before Y*
- *Y happens after/following X*
- *Changes in X explain/affect/shape/influence changes in Y*
- *Y happened after X happened, Y is influenced by X*
- *Changes in Y are the result of changes in X*
- *If we wish to change Y – we need to change/influence X*
  - For example: treatments in psychology.
  - Explain the issue of causality, the difference between IV-DV in experimental psychology, and the implications for understanding the basic scientific and analytical model of: X can explain Y.
  - Correlations – how it fits within the basic scientific model.

SAFE Template – Complete (principles 1-18)

Aim/Research Question *(Introduction)*

Practice:

- **To explain Y** *(result, the explained/dependent concept/factor; identifying Y), or to examine the relationship between X (reason, the explaining/independent concept/factor) and Y; types of relationships between X and Y*

  Practice:

- *Setting up the scene, context*

  Practice:

- **What is Y** *(=description/conceptual and operational definition)*

  Practice:

- **What is X** *(=description/conceptual and operational definition)*

  Practice:

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The Analysis *(Body)*

- **Analysis:** *How and Why X can explain Y (types of relationships)*

Practice:

- **Evaluation:** *of the relationship between X and Y (lack of a 100% explanatory power)*

Practice:

Principle 1:

Use another possible reason/explaining/independent concept, *X2 (and define) and explain How and Why X2 can explain Y; link X1 with X2*

Practice:

Principle 2:

Compare to another explained/dependent concept, *Y2 (and define) and explain How and Why X can explain Y2; link with principle 1*

Practice:

Principle 3:

Levels of abstraction, *the conceptual elasticity regarding the explaining/independent (X) and explained/dependent (Y) concepts/factors/variables employed*

Practice:

Principle 4:

Theory and evidence, *moving between general-theoretical statements and evidence-empirical observations/examinations*

Practice:

Principle 5:

Strengths and weaknesses, *advantages and disadvantages of the explanation; based on core explanations, and as a link element into all other principles*

Practice:

Principle 6:

Generic differences – individual and situational, *'inside' the actor/concept, and 'outside' the actor/concept; at different levels; cultural differences*

Practice:

Principle 7:

Implications and applications

Practice:

Principle 8:

Ethical considerations and issues

Practice:

Principle 9:

Debates and issues, *within the discipline/topic/other disciplines*

Practice:

- *Nature versus nurture, and human nature*

  Practice:

- *Reductionism versus holism*

  Practice:

- *Determinism versus free will*

  Practice:

- *Cultural differences*

  Practice:

Principle 10:

Methodological issues

Practice:

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Principle 11:

Synoptic links

Practice:

Principle 12:

Comparisons

Practice:

Principle 13:

Origins of the explaining/independent concept X

Practice:

Principle 14:

Complexity of concepts

Practice:

Principle 15:

Influential explanation or study

Practice:

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Principle 16:

Questioning the array of concepts

Practice:

Principle 17:

Raise a question, *("I wonder…")*

Practice:

Principle 18:

Interdisciplinary orientation

Practice:

Conclusion

Practice:

- **Generalisation:** *regarding the relationship between X and Y (types of relationships)*

  Practice:

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- **Prediction:** *if X, then it is likely for Y to follow*

Practice:

- **Implication:** *if we want to change Y we need to change X; or, if there is a change in X, it is likely to influence/explain a change in Y; or, if there is a change in Y, it is likely to be the result of a change in X*

Practice:

- **Limitation:** *generalisations, predictions, and implications, are inherently limited, because of the absence of a 100% explanatory power*

Practice:

- **Ethical considerations and implications:** *regarding any explanations offered; link with implications and applications*

Practice:

- **Future examination:** *emanating from any explanations/explorations offered*

Practice:

NOTES:

Add your notes here…

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