The Research Question and hypotheses chapter

1) Writing the research question

2) Constructing the three hypotheses
   a. Hyp. #1: Basic IV/DV for sex differences support for the death penalty.
   b. Hyp. #2: Recoded IV/DV for political orientation differences in support for the death penalty.
   c. Hyp. #3: IV/DV for sex differences in support for the death penalty, with recoded POLVIEW2 as the CV.

1) Writing the research question

The literature review produces a proposition, which becomes the research question:

Literature review: A review of relevant literature indicates that support for the death penalty varies by numerous sociodemographic characteristics. Among these characteristics, gender and political identification emerge as variables that have been found to be consistently associated with differences in support for the death penalty. More specifically, the literature indicates that men and political conservatives are more likely to support the death penalty than women and liberals (Jones 2000; Stack 2000; Ellsworth and Gross 1994).

Proposition: Death penalty support (DPS) varies by gender and political orientation.

Preliminary research question: In keeping with prior research findings, does support for the death penalty vary by gender and political orientation in the 1996 GSS sample?

2) Constructing the three hypotheses
   a. Hyp. #1: Basic IV/DV for sex differences in support for the death penalty.
   b. Hyp. #2: Recoded IV/DV for political orientation differences in support for the death penalty.
   c. Hyp. #3: IV/DV for sex differences in support for the death penalty, with recoded POLVIEW2 as the CV.

Hypothesis formula for dichotomous variables 1:
(one attribute of the IV) is/are more/less likely to (one attribute of the DV) than (the other I.V. attribute).

Hypothesis #1: Males are more likely to support the death penalty than females.

Null hypothesis:
There is no difference between males and females in their support for the death penalty.

Rationale: Insert prior research that leads to this expectation. Make a concise summary paragraph citing research in which men were found to express greater DPS than women. You may also include explanations posed for gender differences in DPS. Take this information from your Literature Review, theme 3, paragraph 2.

Hypothesis #2:
POLVIEWS in the GSS96TAB has three attributes. Since more of the literature centers attention on conservatives versus all others, we will recode POLVIEWS into POLVIEW2, assigning a value of 1 to Conservatives and a value of 2 to Non-ervatives, an attribute composed of moderates and liberals.

Hypothesis formula: (one attribute of the IV) is/are more/less likely to (one attribute of the DV) than (the other I.V. attribute).

1 While variables do not need to be dichotomous, these make a good starting point for learning bivariate analysis and a dichotomous I.V. & D.V. make it very easy to write a hypothesis using the formula.
Hypothesis #2: Conservatives are more likely to support the death penalty than non-conservatives.

Null hypothesis: There is no difference between conservatives and non-conservatives in their support for the death penalty.

Rationale: Insert prior research that leads to this expectation. Make a concise summary paragraph using the information from your Literature Review, theme 3, paragraph 2.

Hypothesis #3: Restate Hypothesis #1 and add the IV from Hyp. #2 as a control variable.

Males are more likely to support the death penalty than females, and this is more likely to hold true for conservatives than for non-conservatives.

Null hypothesis: There is no difference between males and females in their support for the death penalty, even when political orientation is controlled.

Rationale: Combine L.R rationale for hypos. one and two.

[Chapter skeleton]

Research Question & Hypotheses

Introduction (Brief literature review overview statement )
Sample: A review of relevant literature indicates that support for the death penalty varies by numerous sociodemographic characteristics. Among these characteristics, gender and political identification emerge as variables that have been found to be consistently associated with differences in support for the death penalty. More specifically, the literature indicates that men and political conservatives are more likely to support the death penalty than women and liberals (Jones 2000; Stack 2000; Ellsworth and Gross 1994).

Research question: In keeping with prior research findings, does death penalty support vary by gender and political orientation in the 1996 GSS sample?

Hypotheses

Hypothesis # 1:
Null hypothesis #1
Rationale

Hypothesis # 2:
Null hypothesis #2
Rationale

Hypothesis #3:
Null hypothesis #3
Rationale

Summary