Criteria that establish rigor in qualitative methods

Credibility: just like validity in qualitative research – asks if there is a correspondence between the way the respondents actually perceive social constructs and the way the researcher portrays their viewpoints.
Criteria that establish rigor in qualitative methods

(a) persistent observation
(b) peer debriefing
(c) progressive subjectivity
(d) member checks
(e) triangulation
(f) transferability
(g) dependability
(h) authenticity and fairness
(i) confirmability
a. Persistent Observation

- Themes, examples, information begin repeating means it’s time to wrap up. “premature closure” would mean they wrapped up too early and did not gather sufficient data.

b. Peer Debriefing

- Discuss with a disinterested peer, findings, conclusions, analysis, and hypotheses.
c. Progressive Subjectivity

- Researcher monitors their developing constructions and document the process of change from the beginning of the study until the end.

Is this what you meant?

almost…i’ll explain again.

D. Member Checks

- Verifies respondents answers.
e. Triangulation

![Diagram showing a triangle with Document Review at the top, Observation in the middle left, and Interviews in the middle right.]

f. Transferability

- Like external validity for qualitative research – the researcher must give a “thick” description so the reader knows whether it will apply to their situation.
g. Dependability

- The inquiry process is appropriate and of high quality. Strategies or focus may change as the study continues. A dependability audit can be done.
h. Authenticity

- **Fairness**: The researcher presents all value differences, views, and conflicts.

- **Ontological Authenticity**: An individual’s or groups’ conscious experience of the world became more informed and sophisticated.

- **Catalytic Authenticity**: Action was stimulated by the inquiry process.
i. Confirmability

- The influence of the researcher’s judgment is minimized.
- The data and their interpretation are not figments of the researcher’s imagination.

Confirmability audit – going back and checking the original sources in transcripts, documents, journals, field notes.....
Questions for Critically Analyzing Qualitative Research

Pages 259-260, Mertens 2005
Patton’s version: p. 552-588