**Reflection**

This was a group project for EPSY 715, which is a KU Master’s Degree course that deals with understanding research in education. This particular assignment was an opportunity to evaluate two research articles with my classmates: Trevor Patterson, Parker Watson, Charity Rodriguez, Brendan Holba, Anne Mendoza, and Traci Dewert.

The purpose of this project was to research and evaluate two articles, specifically we needed to correctly identify the research paradigm used by the study’s author, identify the research questions the study addresses, determine if the study is quantitative or qualitative, determine whether theoretical or procedural sampling methods were used, identify the specific type of theoretical or procedural sampling, identify the target of the methods, determine the type of measurement and methods used to collect data, and to evaluate whether the type of data collection are appropriate including a comparison with other types of data that could have been used and identification of the questions left unanswered by the data.

As a result of our hard work and dedication, I received almost full marks on the first article and full marks on the second article with helpful feedback from Professor Robyn Malmsten. There was not feedback to improve or work on the second article, so I chose not to revise. There was feedback to correct answers to the first article evaluation; these edits can be seen as highlights in the assignment document. Additionally, I did review the rubric to determine if there was any further work I would like to incorporate. I also checked for grammatical and structural errors. There were none, and so in this I made sure to examine the project carefully to determine if there was any other changes I wanted to make that might improve the product.

Through this course, specifically this group project, I was provided with an opportunity to evaluate each part of two existing research articles, from the paradigm to the methods, etc. I can now appropriately and confidently identify all of these characteristics within a research article and determine if this is appropriate based on extensive evaluation. This course has prepared me, as a special educator, to connect to scientific research methods (designs and procedures) on a deeper level. Overall, I better understand the application of these methods to the educational setting. I have developed my skills for critically evaluating published research and for conceptualizing and designing a research study to address a specific question.