Lincoln and Guba's Evaluative Criteria

Lincoln and Guba posit that trustworthiness of a research study is important to evaluating its worth. Trustworthiness involves establishing:

- **Credibility** - confidence in the 'truth' of the findings
- **Transferability** - showing that the findings have applicability in other contexts
- **Dependability** - showing that the findings are consistent and could be repeated
- **Confirmability** - a degree of neutrality or the extent to which the findings of a study are shaped by the respondents and not researcher bias, motivation, or interest.

Lincoln and Guba describe a series of techniques that can be used to conduct qualitative research that achieves the criteria they outline.

**Techniques for establishing credibility**

- Prolonged Engagement
- Persistent Observation
- Triangulation
- Peer debriefing
- Negative case analysis
- Referential adequacy
- Member-checking

**Techniques for establishing transferability**

- Thick description

**Techniques for establishing dependability**

- Inquiry audit

**Techniques for establishing confirmability**

- Confirmability audit
- Audit trail
- Triangulation
- Reflexivity

Reference