Checklist for Evaluating the Process of a Qualitative Study  
“Queen and Teen Zines: Early Adolescent Females Reading Their Way toward Adulthood”

**Title of the Study**

**Does it reflect the central phenomenon being studied?**
Yes the title is reflective of the phenomenon being studied. It could, however, say something to the effect that this will analyze social roles of females based upon the content of what they read. A suggestion may be “Queens and Teen Zines: Reading Their Way to the Social Roles of Adulthood.” Even if the title did not change it would still be a decent representation of what the study is about in general terms.

**Does it reflect the people and site being studied?**
The title accurately reflects those that are going to be study and under what conditions the study will focus. The site is not mentioned in title but later in the study, though this, in my opinion, is secondary and does not hurt the topic or the message which is being conveyed by the researcher through the title.

**Problem Statement**

**Does it indicate an educational issue to study?**
The educational issue presented in this study is quiet original and hit on a different perspective of reading and reading pedagogy. Though many researchers focus on aspect of reading, this particular researcher studied how the literacy pedagogy serves to define social roles of the participants. In doing this, I believe the researcher has found an interesting and original angle to approach the educational issue. It is done in a precise and eloquent manner!

**Has the author provided evidence that this issue is important?**
The researcher defines the premise of this study in a manner which shows it relevancy and importance to young women. By approaching literacy pedagogy in terms of social roles and patriarchal views of what women should or could be upon entering adulthood epitomizes the reason for this type of study, especially in light of women become more of an equal factor in areas that were once reserved for men only. The evidence is found throughout the study and is based upon researcher that the author presents. By reflecting back upon evidence that is researched based, the researcher commits to and affirms the importance.

**Is there some indication that the author located this issue through a search of past literature or from personal experience?**
The author does locate the issue through various types of researcher (literature) and her own experience as a female. By connecting herself to the study via personal experience, it creates a type of research intimacy that proves later on to have a powerful impact on why the study was conducted in the first place. I feel as though this is one of the studies greatest strengths.

**Does the research problem fit a qualitative approach?**
Most definitely does this problem fit the qualitative approach to research. The researcher was smart to use the ethnographic design due to the fact that she was analyzing and studying beliefs, attitudes, and actions from not only from society but also from a specific group that is often times marginalized.

**Are the assumptions of the study consistent with a qualitative approach?**
The assumptions of the study are consistent with qualitative research. Because the researcher is learning about views of individuals and obtaining detailed information, her research problem is directly related to what qualitative design requires (Creswell, 2008, p. 74).

**Review of Literature**

**Has the author provided a literature review of the research problem under study?**
The author has presented a myriad of literature tied directly to the problem under the study. When the researcher did this, she solidified her research as valid and continuous from the research the preceded her own. This gives the study more richness and areas for those that want to explore this problem further more options to do so.

**Has the author signaled that the literature review is preliminary or tentatively based on the findings in the study?**
The researcher signals that her literature review is preliminary based on the finds of the study. All the literature used is directly tied to her findings and catalyst for why she conducted the study. Her literature review and its ties to the findings are managed very well, and this justifies her research problem.
**Does the study follow the APA style?**
Yes the author uses APA style throughout the entire study and does so correctly.

**Purpose and Research Questions?**

**Does the author specify both a purpose statement and a central research question?**
The author does a fine job of specifying a purpose statement, yet I could not find the central question stated in that form in the study. I believe that the central question is embedded within the narration of the purpose statement on the study. To me, it was clear that the central question was how young women use their reading of zines and teen magazines to measure their entrance to womanhood, but this never directly stated as the central question, but often referred to throughout the study. This has two sides to it. The first is that not clearly stating a central question could possibly lead to confusion about what is truly being discovered and observed, which could weaken the study. The second side is that the author used language so well and the narration of the purpose so acutely that it is easy to deduce the question. Overall, I think the central question is clear though unstated, yet it would not hurt to add this in for the sake of protocol.

**Does the purpose statement and central question indicate the central phenomenon of study and the people and place where the study will occur?**
The purpose statement indicates the central phenomenon of study and the people and place where the study occurs. The researcher takes a meaningful amount of time, but not too much, to explicate the problem, who will be observed in light of the problem, and where it is being observed. By doing this, the author sets her study up for being thorough in explanation of the factors that are driving the study.

**Are sub questions written to narrow the central question to topic areas or foreshadow the steps in data analysis?**
No there are not sub questions to narrow the central question to the topic; however, there is foreshadowing of the research practices and data analysis. Again, because this study does not exactly follow protocol, it does leave room for one to interpret this lack of questioning as either purposeful or as an oversight. In my opinion, the study in terms of focusing does not require sub questions because it is already so focused on its own.

**Data Collection**

**Has the author taken steps to obtain access to people and sites?**
The author has used several authentic ways of accessing the people and sites in the ethnographic study. The researcher has taken all the appropriate steps to ensure that the protocol for the design is upheld, which is to obtain permission from site and participants alike. Because she is dealing with minors, she needs to obtain permission from the minors’ parent or legal guardian, which too is done. In doing this, the researcher is able to follow protocol, and this suggests that the results will be viable and genuine.

**Has the author chosen a specific purposeful sampling for individuals or sites?**
The researcher is very specific on her target for her study and those individuals that are appropriate for the study. Because this ethnography is a part of a larger study, the participants of the larger study are representative of a whole group in terms of the site chosen. This specific study is focused on a specific sect of young individuals, and the sample is representative of the targeted group.

**Is the data collection clearly specified and is it extensive?**
The data collection of this study is clear, specific, yet not as extensive due to the nature of the type of qualitative research being conducted. There are a few times within the study in which the researcher expresses the manner in which she collects data. In my opinion, this does not weaken the study in any way because it does address data collection by means that are fitting and appropriate for the study.

**Is there evidence that the author has used a protocol for recording data?**
There is ample evidence in the data analysis and findings that the researcher used protocol for recording data. The manner in which dialogue and conversations are accurately and fully quoted provides the textual evidence that the researcher recoded data in specific and detailed ways.

**Data Analysis and Findings**

**Were appropriate steps taken to analyze the text or visual data into themes, perspectives, or categories?**
Appropriate steps are taken in the analysis of text and data that is recorded. Many times throughout the study, the author refers to the conversational analysis that takes place in order to derive some of the key
points and assertions that this study makes; thus, it creates the avenue for the various perspectives on zines, their role within literacy pedagogy, and categories for further analysis. The author’s attention to the analysis to derive what she did is honest and readers appreciate that.

**Were multiple layer themes or categories derived?**

Multiple themes and categories are derived and are fleshed out. The author does this smoothly and effortlessly, which makes the study easier to understand and get a clear picture on the implications of the cultural values and norms that are established and observed.

**Did the findings answer the research questions?**

As stated earlier, there is no central research question, rather this study is an observation and understand of a problem. If there is a central question embedded within the narration of the text, as I believe there is, then the findings of the study do answer the research question: How do zines impact adolescent youth and literacy pedagogy?

**Were the findings realistic and accurate? Were steps taken to support this conclusion through verification?**

The finding are very realistic not due in part by anything spectacular that the author does, but simply because the nature of the study. No steps to validate or verify this conclusion are present and strikingly apparent to the readers of this study. Again I do not feel as though this type of research is hurt or hindered because it is based on cultural observations and not direct actions.

**Were the findings represented in the themes or categories so that multiple perspectives can be easily seen?**

The author often times throughout this study presents both the negative and potential positives of young adolescent teens reading zines. I think this is especially interesting and dynamic because the researcher is so emerged in the culture of teenage girls. I believe this strengthens her study immensely.

**Were the findings represented in narrative discussions or in visuals?**

The findings are in narrative form, though the style in which conversations are presented varies which is visually appealing and attention getting.

**Writing**

**Was the account written persuasively and convincingly?**

The author writes with a convincing diction and syntax that is representative of a person who is scholarly but not overly pompous with high diction and great deals of social jargon. The account and the style in which it is written is a definite strength of the study.

**Was the overall account consistent with one of the many forms for presenting qualitative research?**

Because of the ethnographic design being used and the focus on observation and reporting, the author manages the consistency of summarizing and re-telling that is necessary for successful ethnographic design.

**Was the account written to include literacy approaches, such as the use of metaphor, surprises, detail, dialogue, and complexity?**

Precise details, dialogue, and complexity make the writing fluid and interesting to read. Being able to compose and relay information in such a way is a mark of not only a good writer but a good researcher.

**Was it written using a personal point of view?**

There is a high amount of personal point of view when the author retells her account. This solidifies her as the “expert” on female teens because of her experience.

**Is the study written appropriately for intended audience(s)?**

This study is obviously intended for a conference or an article. Because of it friendly language, it could be easily understood by those who either read the article or attend the conference, even if this reader or listener has no formal background in research. This is a definite good thing for this study because it does not exclude, which makes it more likely to be well received by a larger audience.