

**TABLE 3.1** Ways in Which Prior Studies Can Provide Ideas for New Studies

<b>Method</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Replication	You might decide that you want to repeat a study to see whether you can replicate the results because you think the author's results have significant educational importance and you want to verify them.
Test the external validity of a study	You might have read a laboratory-based study that has suggestions for important issues such as reading, control of aggression, or improving instruction. You want to find out whether the laboratory methods tested would work equally well in the classroom.
Improve a study's internal validity	In reading a study, you might realize that the study did not control one or more important variables and the lack of control of these variables led to an ambiguous interpretation of the results. For example, Gladue and Delaney (1990) thought that the Pennebaker et al. (1979) study that found that girls in bars got prettier at closing time did not answer the question of whether it was time or alcohol consumption that contributed to the perceptions of attractiveness.
Reconcile conflicting results	In reading the literature on a topic, you might find conflicting results. These conflicting results can lead to a study trying to resolve the conflict. This conflict might be due to different ways in which the studies were conducted, the use of different measurement instruments, or the use of different participant populations. When studies conflict, you need to look for any differences in the studies because these differences might represent the cause of the apparent conflict.
Suggestions for future research	One of the easiest ways to get ideas from past research is to look for the author's suggestions for future research. Often, particularly in review articles, the author(s) of the article will make suggestions for the future direction of the research. These suggestions are frequently quite valid and represent good sources of research ideas.
Theses and dissertations	Theses and dissertations often have a section devoted to future research that will identify subsequent studies that need to be completed.