

Reviewer comment-1

Alternative Title:- A Qualitative Evaluation of the safe TALK Suicide Prevention Course: Results from the United States Coast Guard.

There are multiple areas where the language could be improved. For example, even the abstract's first sentence has a word missing: "...they act as hindrances towards WHO providing and seeking help."

The introduction section provides some background. There was a complete lack of further detail regarding the safeTALK program. How does it exactly work? How long has it been around?

Also, it may be helpful to expand out details about the USCG – how many members in the different theatres, its mission, etc. It would also be helpful for you to break up your introduction section into several subsection to help readers. Also, you mention "coasties" – while I know that term means USCG members (since I served with some), I would expect that term to be outlined. Also, do not be afraid to utilize "e.g" or "viz". when you are describing the methods/questions used. You may also find it helpful to list of other similar studies that have used the same methodology – you spend a bit of time talking about John Ward Creswell – but you don't list off where similar methods had been used. Also, your quote at the bottom of page 3/top of page 4 is off.

You have only two references. You should be expecting between 10-20 references to provide context. You also directly quote from Creswell – this needs to include the page number of the source.

I did not see where you talked about IRB approval prior to the interviews. You did not mention where the participants had the opportunity to volunteer – informed consent, etc. This was completely left out.

There is no discussion of how the interview results were protected and anonymized, if that is what happened.

