



Educational Psychology Program
Signature Assignment for EDP 520
Research Paper

Student Learning Outcome(s) Assessed

SLO #3: Apply quantitative/qualitative research methodology in educational research and evaluation.

Description of the Signature Assignment

Candidates will be asked to develop a research proposal, including, research questions, literature review, and quantitative/qualitative methodology. Through this assignment, candidates will demonstrate their understanding of basic research skills and knowledge in designing educational research.

Directions for Students

The purpose of this assignment is for candidates to demonstrate their understanding of basic research skills and knowledge in writing a research plan. The plan must be typed, spell-checked, double-spaced with a standard 12-point font, and submitted in hard copy. References must be properly cited using the American Psychological Association (APA) format. The research plan should be in the following format:

Chapter I: Introduction

1. Introduction (1page)
 - a. Provide an overview of the broad problems in education that lead up to this particular study.
2. Purpose of the Study (1/2-1 page)
 - a. Describes what the study will do – a direct response to what needs to be known.
 - b. The research questions are presented here.
3. Significance of the Study (1/2 page)
 - a. Describe what contribution to the broad literature or set of broad educational problems would be made when the study is finished.

Chapter II: Literature Review

1. Introduction (1/2 page)
 - a. Provide orientation to the purpose and topics of the chapter.
2. Synthesizing the literature (2 pages).
3. Conclusion (1/2 page)

Chapter III: Methodology

1. Introduction (1/2 page)
 - a. Review the purpose and research questions for the study.
2. Subjects (1/2 page)
 - a. Provide a detail description of the subjects
3. Instrumentation (1/2-1 page)
 - a. Relation of research questions to instruments.
 - b. Psychometric issues – reliability and validity.
4. Procedure (1/2-1 page)
 - a. Provide a detail description of the data collection process.
5. Data Analysis (1/2 page).

Scoring Rubric

Criteria	Exceeding (4)	Meeting (3)	Developing (2)	Not meeting (1)
Identifying a research problem	Problem statement is clear, complete, and significant	Problem statement is focused and clear.	Problem statement is vague or insignificant	Problem statement is overly broad
Reviewing the literature	Uses at least 5 empirical sources to support, extend, and inform; closely match the research problem	Uses at least 5 empirical sources to support, extend, and inform; match the research problem	Uses less than 5 empirical sources to support, extend, and inform; vaguely match the research problem	Neglects important sources
Specifying a purpose and research questions	Purpose and research questions are clear and feasible; closely match the research problem	Purpose and research questions are fairly clear and match the research problem	Purpose and research questions are vague and only loosely related to the research problem	Purpose and research questions are overly broad and has no relation to the research problem
Identifying a design	Design is appropriate and clearly justified	Design is appropriate and minimally justified	Design is not clearly described or justified	Design is inappropriate
Specifying subjects/participants	Subjects/participants are described in detail and clearly justified	Subjects/participants are described in detail and minimally justified	Subjects/participants are vaguely described or justified	Subjects/participants are unclear
Identifying data collection methods	Utilizes multiple methods and collects information that answer the research questions	Utilizes appropriate methods, and most information relates directly to the research questions	Utilizes the minimal number of sources, and information does not relate to research questions	Data collection methods are not clearly described
Identifying data analysis plan	Data analysis plan is appropriate and answers the research questions	Data analysis plan is appropriate and answers some of the research questions	Data analysis plan is vague and answers some of the research questions	Data analysis plan is inappropriate
Writing	Writing is clear, nearly perfect mechanics, and follows APA format	Writing is generally clear, acceptable use of mechanics, and follows APA format	Writing shows average composition skills and competence in the use of mechanics	Writing is unclear and mechanics are excessively flawed

Legend

Total Points	College of Education Assessment Scale Equivalent
27-32	4 (Exceeds Expectations)
20-26	3 (Meets Expectations)
14-19	2 (Meets Some Expectations)
8-13	1 (Does Not Meet Expectations)
Below 8	0 (Can't Score)