



MA in Education, Option in Educational Psychology
Signature Assignment for ED P 604
Critical Analysis Paper

Student Learning Outcome(s) Assessed:

SLO #5: Critically analyze research in educational psychology.

Description of the Signature Assignment

Candidates will be asked to develop a research paper that addresses a challenge in education or psychology in regards to learning, motivation, and/or cognition. The paper is to include research questions and review of the literature, which provides solutions to the challenge. Through this assignment, candidates will demonstrate their understanding of basic research skills and knowledge in writing an educational research paper.

Directions for Students

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

Introduction

1. Provide an overview of a particular challenge in either cognition, learning, and motivation in education or psychology

Purpose of the Study

1. Describe what needs to be known about an individual, small group, population etc. in relation to the problem
2. State research questions

Significance of the Study

1. Describe what contribution to the broad literature or set of broad educational problems would be made when the study is finished.
2. Provide a detail description of the participants in the articles used

Literature Review

1. Synthesize the literature

Applications and Implications (At least for 3 different audiences)

1. Describe applications to education and/or psychology in general
2. Provide Implications for teachers and/or support staff, administrators, parents, and/or students

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
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
Reviewing the literature with	Uses at least 5 -7 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
Implications and recommendations for at least 3 audiences	Provides implications and recommendations for at least 3 different audiences that address research questions and original issue	Provides implications and recommendations for at least 2 different audiences that address research questions and original issue	Provides on 1 audience or a general set of implications and recommendations Does not address research questions and original issue	Provides no implications for any audience
Identifying analysis and application to education and/or psychology	Analysis is appropriate and answers the research questions with clear application to education and/or psychology	Analysis is appropriate and answers some of the research questions and has some applications to education and/or psychology	Analysis is vague and answers some of the research questions and touches on applications to education and/or psychology	Analysis does not address research questions nor does it provide any applications to education and/or psychology
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. Incorrect APA formatting or references.	Writing is unclear and mechanics are excessively flawed and no APA formatting.

Legend

Total Points	CED Assessment Scale Equivalent
22-24	4 – Exceeds Expectations
18-21	3 – Meets Expectations
13-17	2 – Meets Some Expectations
8-12	1 – Does Not Meet Expectations
Below 8	0 – Unable to score; incomplete or missing work