
Research Proposal: Assignment #1
Research Topic, Theoretical Proposition(s), Term Definitions, Hypothesis, and Variables

Instructions for Completion and Submission

Please note that the submission process is two-fold. All assignments must: (1) be e-mailed to the instructor as an attachment (see details below), and (2) be submitted to www.turnitin.com. If both steps are not completed by the due date/time specified on your course schedule, your assignment will be considered late. Additionally, assignments which are not submitted to www.turnitin.com will not be graded.

1. In 1 - 2 pages complete sections "I through V" using the appropriate headings and subheadings. See Example Assignment #1 for the proper format.
2. This assignment must be completed in MS Word (*.doc or *.docx), MS Works (*.wps), or as a basic rich text file (*.rtf). Absolutely no other file formats will be accepted.
3. E-mail your completed assignment to dkamedasjsu@aol.com as an attachment (do not copy and paste it into the e-mail). Be sure to retain the e-mail you send your assignment with just in case. You will receive a confirmation "thank you" e-mail in response to your submission as soon as possible.
4. Submit your assignment to www.turnitin.com the date/time it is due.
5. Include your name and the name of the assignment in the file name (i.e., the file name you choose for the document). For example: YourName_Assignment1
6. See your respective course schedule for the due date and time.
7. Due dates and times are firm. Late assignments will not be eligible for credit (i.e., points) without a legitimate and substantiated excuse. **Please note: All assignments must be completed in a timely manner to pass the course, regardless of whether or not you receive points for them.**

***Please* see the instructor or e-mail (dkamedasjsu@aol.com) in a timely manner if you are having trouble with this assignment. Always remember, there is no penalty for having questions. 😊**

Basic Format for Assignment #1

I. Statement of Research Topic

In a short paragraph, describe a topic you wish to research and explain why it is important to study.

II. Theoretical Proposition(s)

State your main theoretical proposition using general, abstract law-like statements. You may have more than one if needed.

III. Term Definition(s)

Define the important terms in your theoretical proposition. The decision about which terms to define should be based on the question of whether or not a lay person would likely or unlikely know the definition.

IV. Hypothesis (or Hypotheses if you have multiple)

State a specific hypothesis (i.e., a specific instance of your more general proposition).

Your hypothesis:

1. Needs to be phrased as a declarative statement, do not phrase it in the form of a question
2. Should only be one sentence
3. Needs to include a clear comparison between at least two groups (i.e., levels of your independent variable)
4. If what you wish to research is too complex to fit into one hypothesis, construct as many hypotheses as necessary. Multiple hypotheses should be denoted by: H₁, H₂, H₃ and so on.

V. Variables

1. You will need to come up with a minimum of **one** independent variable (IV), **two** background variables (BV), and **one** dependent variable (DV).
2. Your IV needs to be categorical in nature, with at least two levels (groups) for comparison.
3. Your background variables may be continuous or categorical (see Example Assignment #1 for more information about determining whether your variables are continuous or categorical).

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