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### Final Research Proposal Requirements and Basic Format

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You will use the work completed for Assignments #1 through #4 as building blocks for your final proposal. It is expected and required that your final proposal will incorporate feedback from the instructor.

- Assignment #1 will serve as an outline of some of the information that will be needed for the introduction of your final proposal. You will be required to expand on your research topic.
- If done correctly, Assignments #2, #3 and #4 should essentially be ready for insertion into your final research proposal. Any errors/issues with Assignments #2, #3, and #4 should be fixed before being inserted into your final research proposal.
- In addition to Assignments #1-4, you will be required to write a short literature review based upon three scholarly, journal articles.
- Your final proposal will require proper formatting, and great attention to detail. Although Assignments #2, #3 and #4 will be inserted into your final proposal in outline form, pulling your proposal together will not be as simple as copying and pasting. Certain portions of your final proposal will require proper APA style formatting, and fully written out text (i.e., no outline).
- The average proposal, from cover page through appendix, is approximately 25 – 30 pages in length.

#### **The Research Proposal Format:**

The research proposal will contain the following sections: (1) Cover page, (2) Introduction, (3) Literature Review, (4) Methodology, (5) Data Analysis Plan, (6) References, and (7) Appendix.

**Introduction (title of paper):** (Assignment #1) The introduction will be a non-technical discussion of the research problem to be studied with some justification as to why it is important to study. It should lead to a statement of your general theoretical proposition, and hypothesis. This section should easily fill (1) full page. **Proper APA and complete sentences are required.**

**Literature Review:** The literature review must contain three sources, two sources must be scholarly, empirical journal articles, and the third source may be a theoretical article if you wish. The order in which you review your sources should follow a logical progression toward your hypothesis which you will re-state in the next section. Generally, theoretical sources are presented first, followed by empirical sources which are used to provide empirical support. You should expect to write 1-2 pages per source. A separate handout will be provided for the literature review. **Proper APA and complete sentences are required.**

Reviews of scholarly, theoretical journal articles need to contain the following elements: basic general description of the research question(s); a description of the theory (or theories) applied; information about the methodology; relevant conclusions; and a thoughtful critique of how it fits in with your proposed study.

Reviews of scholarly, empirical journal articles need to contain the following elements: basic general description of what the study was about; information about the sample, information about the methodology, relevant findings (results), and a thoughtful critique of how it fits in with your proposed study.

**Note: Methodology, Part I and Methodology, Part II will later be combined into a single Methodology section of your final research proposal. The data collection instrument that you will design for Part II will be included at the end of your proposal in an appendix.**

**Methodology, Part I:** (Assignment #2) Part I of your methodology will include details about your sample, and the procedures that would need to be followed in order to carry out your proposed study. A separate handout will be provided that will contain more details about this assignment. **Your methodology section will be included in your final proposal in outline form.**

**Methodology, Part II:** (Assignment #3) Part II of your methodology will include details about your chosen research design, a listing of your variables, a section that addresses testing the reliability and validity of your dependent variable, and data collection instrument that you will design. A separate handout will be provided that will contain more details about this assignment. **Your methodology section will be included in your final proposal in outline form.**

**Data Analysis Plan:** (Assignment #4) Your data analysis plan will include the following sections: *Descriptive Statistics, Bivariate Analysis, and Test of the Hypothesis or Tests of the Hypotheses (if you have more than one hypothesis)*. In this section you will formulate a data analysis plan based upon the variables you have chosen to include in your study. Prior to the completion of this assignment, you will be required to fill out a variable information worksheet which will help guide you through the process of determining the proper analyses. There will be an in-class workshop towards the end of the semester (April 27, 2009), during which you will complete the majority of your Data Analysis Plan.

You will need to submit your completed Data Analysis Plan to the instructor via e-mail no later than Friday, May 1, 2009. A separate handout will be provided that will contain more details about this assignment. **Your Data Analysis Plan will be included in your final proposal in outline form.**

**References:** You will need to provide a list of references for the literature that has been cited in your literature review. Only primary references will be included in your list of references, secondary sources should not be included. Remember to use APA style! This section will go on a separate page by itself. Throughout the semester you will have access to several examples of proper APA format for references, as well as in-text citations for other portions of your proposal.

**Appendix:** The data collection instrument(s) you propose to use in Assignment #3 will go into an appendix (or appendices if you have more than one). Format and neatness count! Hand written measures will not be accepted. Your data collection instrument(s) must address all of your variables, inclusive of independent, background, and dependent variables.