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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 an article critique based upon an empirical scholarly, peer reviewed journal article.
- 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.

#### **Basic Research Proposal Format/Content:**

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

**Introduction (title of paper):** 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, for which you will use information from Assignment #1 as the basis. 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.**

**Article Critique:** The article critique will be based upon an empirical scholarly journal article of your choosing that is clearly pertinent to your chosen topic. It is recommended that you choose an article early on, and clear it with the instructor if you are unsure of whether it meets the proper requirements. **Proper APA and complete sentences are required.**

An article critique needs 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. A separate, more detailed handout for the Article Critique will be available.

**Note:** Assignments #2 and #3 will later be combined into a single Methodology section of your final research proposal. The data collection instrument that you will design for Assignment #3 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 chosen research design, a listing of your variables, a section that addresses testing the reliability and validity of your dependent variable, your study sample and the recruitment of subjects. 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 the procedures that would need to be followed in order to carry out your proposed study, and a “ready to go” draft(s) of the data collection instrument(s) for 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.**

**Data Analysis Plan** (Assignment #4): Your data analysis plan will include the following sections: *Descriptive Statistics, Bivariate/Multivariate 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. A separate handout will be provided that will contain more details about this assignment. There will be an in-class workshop towards the end of the semester (see course schedule), during which you will complete the majority of your Data Analysis Plan.

In addition to submitting your Data Analysis Plan, you will need to submit a Variable Information List (an additional handout is available on the JS105 page of the instructor’s web site). The Variable Information List is for grading purposes, and will not be included in your Final Research Proposal. **Your Data Analysis Plan will be included in your final proposal in outline form.**

**References:** You will need to provide a reference list that contains a proper APA reference for the article utilized for your article critique. If you use additional scholarly sources for information contained in other sections of your research proposal, those sources need to be included as well. Only primary sources will be included in your reference list, secondary sources should not be included. Remember to use APA style that follows the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the APA Publication Manual. 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.