

EDUC 6320
Research Seminar: Action Research Proposal

Planning the Research Proposal: The Basics

1. What is your topic? Consult with your program advisor and the research seminar instructor for ideas. Think about what topics are most relevant for your own work activities and setting. Identify an area and begin narrowing it to a more specific topic.
2. What do you want to learn about this topic? Formulate a problem statement.
3. Why is this topic important? Based on your experience, how might you and others benefit from knowing more about this topic?
4. Will a quantitative or a qualitative approach (or a combination of both) best help you explore this topic?
5. What is your specific research question? Formulate this as a hypothesis.
6. Describe the independent variable(s) and dependent variable(s) of your study.
7. Begin reviewing the literature on this topic to see what has been done already. Using an online database search engine or other resource, identify at least 10 peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, or other scholarly works that relate to your research topic. At this stage, do not include non-peer reviewed information (e.g., Websites or opinion pieces). Complete the abstracting form for each article. Take note of any gaps in the literature.
8. Develop the initial research design. Choose the method that best fits your research question: survey, correlational, causal-comparative, experimental, single-subject experimental, case study, narrative, or ethnographic. Briefly describe what you plan to do and how you plan to measure the variables of interest.
9. Identify the ethical issues that must be addressed to conduct the research ethically. Complete the UST Human Subjects Exemption form.
10. Identify whose permission needs to be obtained.
 - a. Locate written district policies and guidelines.
 - b. Determine whether informed consent forms will be needed.
 - c. Communicate with the principal/administrator at the research site.
 - d. Secure a written agreement by the end of the semester.
11. Consider what the research will cost, both monetarily and time-wise.
 - a. Take into account the cost of supplies, reinforcements, books, etc.
 - b. How much of your work time will you be dedicating to this project?
 - c. How much will you ask other school staff to do? Will they expect reimbursement?
 - d. Will interpreters be needed? Will they expect reimbursement?

12. Timelines: Plan ahead and keep in mind that research often takes longer than anticipated. Keep the study timeframe to 4-6 weeks maximum, to ensure completion of the study during EDUC 6321.

Chapter 1, 1st draft due:

Chapter 1, 2nd draft due:

Chapter 2, 1st draft due:

Human Subjects Exemption form due:

Chapter 2, 2nd draft due:

Chapter 3, Working draft due:

Permission form due:

Progress report form due:

Chapter 3, 2nd draft due:

Initial data analysis form due:

Chapter 4 due:

Chapter 5, 1st draft due:

Chapters 1 – 5, final version due: