

available

# Social Work Research I:

FALL 2019

min 7 pag. = 5<sup>xx</sup> pref. - reviewed  
journal  
original  
Research

## GUIDELINES FOR FINAL PAPER 50 POINTS

\* TITLE PAGE: Include the following on the title page:

1. Title of study in unbiased, precise terms. The title includes the main variables under study and describes what will be studied – not the anticipated results.
2. Student's full name
3. School and Course Number
4. Date

\* ABSTRACT: (NO MORE THAN 100 WORDS)

2 Paragraphs  
separate page

Summarize purpose of your research, methodology (including sampling strategy, method of data collection, study limitations, etc.), and implications for social work practice, planning, or policy. Abstract should appear on a separate sheet at the beginning of the paper.

INTRODUCTION: (APPROXIMATELY 1-2 PAGES)

Introduce study purpose and its relevance to social work. Introduce general problem area and research problem(s). Is this an exploratory, descriptive, or explanatory study?

LITERATURE REVIEW: (APPROXIMATELY 5 PAGES)

Literature review should include no less than 6 research articles from professional journals. You may also use books, though these books should not only be course textbooks. Internet materials can be used with instructor's permission. Citations using APA format for all sources are required.

**REVIEW OF LITERATURE SHOULD REFLECT SYNTHESIS OF RELEVANT MATERIAL. DO NOT DIRECTLY QUOTE RESEARCH ARTICLES WHEN SUMMARIZING FINDINGS.**

① How prevalent is the problem? ② What other research has been done related to your research problem?

- Critique this research in terms of reliability, validity, limitations, narrowness of focus, etc.
- How does your study supplement the research which has already been done? Discuss relevant theoretical ideas.

While your literature review can be organized in a fashion which you believe clearly outlines the existing knowledge on your subject matter, you may consider the following format:

A. Introductory Statement: Offer a general comment on the status of existing relevant knowledge and outline the major areas that will be covered in the review.

B. Historical Background (if relevant): Provide account of historical context of the problem or key concept.

C. Major Theory (ies) or Model(s): Outline theoretical models relevant to the research problem that could serve as a conceptual framework for the study.

D. Thematic Presentation of Available Knowledge: Provide description of work done "in and around the edges" of the phenomena under scrutiny. This sub-section should form the bulk of the review. (The majority of the content should reflect empirically derived knowledge which should be distinguished from non-empirical material.)

E. Summary: Summarize what is known about the problem – what gaps exist and how does your proposed study fill one of these gaps?

#### METHODOLOGY: RESEARCH QUESTION AND HYPOTHESIS (APPROXIMATELY ½ PAGE)

Specify research questions and hypotheses as well as independent, dependent, and extraneous/control variables with operational definitions. Indicate the questions in your survey, coding sheet, interview schedule, etc. which will be used to measure each of your independent, dependent, and extraneous/control variables.

#### DATA COLLECTION: (APPROXIMATELY 2 PAGES - NOT INCLUDING INSTRUMENTS)

How will you collect data (mail, interviews, observation, self-administered questionnaires, or some combination)? Will you be using scales, indexes, or data collection instruments which have been developed by others? Why? What levels of measurement will be used to measure your variables? How many items will measure your independent and dependent variables? Describe research that has been done to determine the reliability and validity of these scales, indexes, or data collection instruments. Attach copies of these instruments.

If you are developing your own measurement instruments, describe the process that you went through in choosing your questions, deciding on wording, etc. Why did you not use existing scales, indexes, or data collection instruments? What levels of measurement will be used to measure your variables? What steps did you take to reduce chances of error (systematic and random) when developing your measurement instruments? How many items will measure your independent and dependent variables? Describe the processes that you will engage in to determine the reliability and validity of these instruments. Attach copies of your instruments.

You can also use scales, indexes, or questions developed by others AND your own measures. If you do so, please answer questions above as they relate to the existing and new measures. How will you guard against errors in measurement during data collection? Specify your plans to pre-test your data collection instruments.

#### SAMPLING: (APPROXIMATELY 1-2 PAGES)

What is your sampling strategy? Why was it chosen? How will you recruit study participants for treatment and/or control/comparison groups? How many individuals, groups, or other units will be in your sample? How will you address ethical issues in recruitment of participants and data collection?

Define the population under study – what are the characteristics of the population from which the sample is drawn? Specify your sampling frame and the proportion of individuals, groups, etc. selected.

#### RESEARCH DESIGN: (APPROXIMATELY 1 PAGE)

Will your study be cross-sectional or longitudinal (trend, cohort, or panel)? What is your research design? Why was this design chosen? Are you using a control or comparison group? Discuss limitations of your design due to feasibility, ethical, or other constraints. What are extraneous variables and how will they be controlled in your research design?

#### LIMITATIONS OF STUDY:(APPROXIMATELY ½-1 PAGE)

What are the limitations of your study? A limitation is a weakness that can potentially limit the validity of the study. This is a critical section of the research paper in that it serves as a restraining backdrop against which the results of the study can be more validly viewed. Present the limitations surrounding your study within which your findings must be confined. Limitations should include those related to:

- A. Research design
- B. Sampling methods
- C. Data collection methods and protocols

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY: (APPROXIMATELY 1 PAGE)

Citations - using APA format - of all books, journal articles, etc.

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

- ALL PAPERS ARE TO BE TYPED, DOUBLE-SPACED, SINGLE-SIDED, AND PRESENTED IN CORRECT TERM PAPER FORMAT. HAND WRITTEN PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
- CITATIONS AND BIBLIOGRAPHY ARE REQUIRED. BE AWARE THAT IDEAS, AS WELL AS DIRECT QUOTES, WHICH YOU USE FROM JOURNAL ARTICLES, BOOKS, ETC. MUST BE CITED.
- LATE PAPERS WILL RESULT IN LOWERED GRADES.