



Week 2

The Problem Statement

The problem statement is one of the most important foundational elements of a dissertation. In the problem statement, a student documents an issue captured in the literature prompting the need for a solution. The research conducted serves as a solution or partial solution to the problem. While a problem is the focus of the dissertation, it is important the researcher does not already know the outcome of the study. In fact, a dissertation is a process of discovery for the researcher and for the academic community. The dissertation must result in some original contribution addressing the problem identified in the problem statement. It is important to note a lack of research alone is not a compelling problem as many things are not studied, but do not necessarily warrant research.

As part of the dissertation process, you will develop a statement of the problem related to a business-related topic of interest. The statement of the problem must flow logically from a general introduction to a more specific indication of the research problem. Scholarly, peer-reviewed research is employed to support the identification of the presented problem, the importance of the crisis/issue, and the need to research the problem.

A problem statement includes three components: 1) The researcher must indicate the specific problem in need of remediation with citations to the literature to show this is a recent and relevant issue; 2) The researcher should indicate who is affected by this problem; and 3) The researcher should conclude with a sentence or two that notes what will happen if the problem is not addressed.

For examples, review the dissertation examples in the books and resources section of this week.



80 % 4 of 5 topics complete

Books and Resources for this Week



Harter, S. (2006). The challenge of framing a problem: What is your burning question?

Link



Monk

PDF document



Squier

PDF document




Week 2 Problem Statement Template

Link



Week 2 - Assignment: Compose a Problem Statement

Assignment

 Due March 12 at 11:59 PM

Begin by locating several peer-reviewed articles from the past 5 years that support the problem you wish to address in your dissertation. These articles may be ones previously gathered for your annotated bibliography assignment or additional resources you select after receiving feedback on your topic from your course mentor.

For this assignment, create a problem statement. Your problem must come from a critical issue that must be addressed, otherwise negative consequences will occur or continue. In most cases, scholarly citations within the past 5 years are required to support the problem you will investigate.

Articulate a concise problem statement. Include appropriate published or relevant primary sources to document the existence of a problem worthy of doctoral level research. Follow these steps:

1. Present the general issue grounded in the research literature that leads to the need for the study.
2. Clearly describe and document the problem prompting the study. Include appropriate published or relevant primary sources to document the existence of a problem worthy of PhD doctoral-level research. Be sure to consider the following:

What perspective is represented? For example, is the problem an individual level problem, an organizational problem, an industry problem, or a social problem?

3. Consider the theories relevant to predict, explain, and understand the problem.
4. To identify and articulate a problem, consider the potential negative consequences to the field or stakeholders if the proposed research is never conducted.

Support your assignment with at least five scholarly resources. In addition to these specified resources, other appropriate scholarly resources, including older articles, may be included.

Length: 1-2 pages, not including title and reference pages

Your assignment should demonstrate thoughtful consideration of the ideas and concepts presented in the course by providing new thoughts and insights relating directly to this topic. Your response should reflect scholarly writing and current APA standards. Be sure to adhere to Northcentral University's Academic Integrity Policy.

Upload your assignment using the Upload Assignment button below.