

### **How To Use the Doctoral Project Template**

Developing a complete and well-constructed Doctoral Project will likely be much different than any type of writing endeavor that you have completed to date. With this in mind the School of Behavioral Sciences is dedicated to help every Doctoral Candidate successfully navigate this process and one of the tools to ensure success is the doctoral project template. To prepare for this process there are series of instructions created template to enhance the use of this document with the objective to ensure quality doctoral project.

1. Completely review the template so that you are familiar with the content. Being familiar with the template may reduce time later regarding content, formatting, and organization of the project.
2. Note each chapter contains the headings for the respective sections. Below each heading is a description of the required content with a brief checklist to help
3. Write directly into the document as it is a word file this will help you stay organized. (Your chair may want you to submit sections of chapters separately so you can cut do that and then cut and paste the final version into the template).
4. Closely read your work for APA formatting errors, content, and flow prior to submission to the Chair for review.
5. Remove this page when you submit the document for Academic Review.
6. As you begin writing follow APA guidelines for formatting and writing (see Appendix A: Basic Guide for Avoiding Anthropomorphism). Also note that third person reference to self is not permitted in APA so do not use language such as the researcher or this author when referring to yourself.

## Basic Guide to Understanding and Avoiding Use of Anthropomorphism

### What is Anthropomorphism?

Anthropomorphism refers to giving human characteristics to a nonliving object or animal (APA, 2020). Anthropomorphism is covered in the seventh edition APA Style manuals in the Publication Manual Section 4.11

### Why is this not Permitted by the SOBS?

It is best to avoid using anthropomorphism because it causes sentences to be unclear and imprecise. Because academic writing should be clear and direct, you want to avoid any phrasing that is not precise. Make sure sentences are precise by checking that the subject of your sentence is capable of performing the action of the verb.

### Why do Peer Reviewed Journals Allow Anthropomorphic Writing?

As you read published articles you are likely to observe this writing style which can be confusing when the APA does not support the use of this in scholarly writing. Journals in general are not required to comply with the APA they have their own editorial boards that establish guidelines for submission. That means they may permit this writing style.

### What are Some Common Anthropomorphic Instances and how can these be Corrected?

**Anthropomorphic Sentence:** The article discussed the prevalence of anxiety on college campuses.

**Explanation:** An article cannot discuss because it is simply written composition, but the Learner presenting the information can. Discussed is an active verb that involves a very human action. Discussing, talking, and speaking are verbs that it only makes sense for humans to do.

**Non Anthropomorphic Sentence:** Miller (2023) discussed the prevalence anxiety on college campuses.

**Anthropomorphic Sentence:** This chapter reviews the impact of trauma on the family system.

**Explanation:** Similar to the first example a chapter cannot conduct a review because that requires the action of reading articles and synthesizing the content which is what the Learner will do to create the chapter. Reviews is an action verb therefore this involves human behavior.

**Non Anthropomorphic Sentence:** This chapter contains a comprehensive review of the literature on the effects of trauma on the family system.

**Anthropomorphic Sentence:** The study explored effects on mindfulness meditation in a sample of adolescents.

**Explanation:** This phrasing suggests that a study, an inanimate object, can explore. Active verbs, like exploring, need to be taken by a person or group of people.

**Non Anthropomorphic Sentence:** In this study, I explored effects on mindfulness meditation in a sample of adolescents.

Here, it is possible to use the first person to clarify action and avoid anthropomorphic writing (see APA, 2020, p. 120). Note: While first person is permitted it should be used sparingly and only when absolutely necessary so consider more creative non anthropomorphic writing options.

TITLE OF STUDY

Doctoral Project

Presented to the Faculty

[Insert Your School Name]

[Insert Your University Name]

in partial fulfillment  
of the requirements  
for  
the degree of

[INSERT YOUR COURSE/PROGRAM NAME]

by

Student Name

Date of Defense

**Copyright Release Agreement**

Many PsyD doctoral candidates decide to copyright their projects. This is a good idea if follow-up research is anticipated or if a truly innovative concept is developed in the project.

The University retains the right to use Doctoral Projects for academic purposes such as displaying them in a library that is open for public review, making them available for review by other doctoral candidates of this institution, and providing copies for review by educational or professional licensing and accrediting agencies.

In the event the doctoral candidate chooses to copyright the Doctoral Project; the University still retains its right to use the Doctoral Project for educational purposes as described. To document the doctoral candidate's agreement with this condition, the doctoral candidate is to sign and date the following statement and return to the Committee Chair with a copy attached to the final version of the project submitted for the course.

---

**To:** School of Behavioral Sciences

**From:** First & Last Name, Doctoral Candidate

**Subject:** Copyright Agreement Release

**Date:** Month/Year

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Doctoral Candidate, do hereby grant California Southern University permission to use my Doctoral Project for educational purposes as described in this memorandum.

---

First & Last Name, Doctoral Candidate

---

Date

Your Name Here

STATEMENT OF APPROVAL

We, the undersigned, certify we have read this Doctoral Project and approve it as adequate in scope and quality for the degree of Doctor of Psychology.

Doctoral Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Doctoral Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Doctoral Project Committee:

(Type name and degree)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Project Chair Date

(Type name and degree)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Member Date

(Type name and degree)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Member Date

## DEDICATION

Here you may want to write a paragraph or few sentences as a way to recognize a person that inspired you to attend college, pursue your passion, or provided specific help throughout the educational process.



### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

An acknowledgement page is included to offer a thankful note to those Individuals both personal and professional who provided support to you during the completion of the doctoral project. The acknowledgment is usually a paragraph to a page in length and may include an expression of gratitude to those that were instrumental in your success.



## ABSTRACT

This section is a comprehensive and brief summary of the doctoral candidate's study. The abstract is limited to **250 words**. This page is not written until chapters have been approved. Some Learners want to write this earlier but the content is to be a summary of the entire project and that is unknown until after all chapters have been approved. The abstract is not indented and is a single paragraph. The APA (2020) manual, Section 2.9 to 2.10, provides four descriptions of this section: accurate, non-evaluative, coherent and readable, and concise. The abstract is the first section that is seen by a reader and thus must be carefully constructed. The items to include in this section are dependent upon the type of study. The following provides a synopsis of what is included. list keywords from your paper in your abstract. To do this, indent as you would if you were starting a new paragraph, type *Keywords:* (italicized), and then list three to five words, phrases, or acronyms as keywords. Listing your keywords will help researchers find your work in databases.

For a complete perspective, refer to the APA (2020) 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Sections 2.9 to 2.10.

Provide the following:

- Key aspects of the literature review
- Problem under investigation or research question(s)
- Clearly stated hypothesis or hypotheses (only for quantitative studies)
- Methods used (including brief descriptions of the study design, sample, and sample size)
- Study results
- Implications (i.e., why this study is important, applications of the results or findings)
- *Keywords:* (italicized), and then list your keywords



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**Note: Only use this listing if there is more than one Figure.**



## CHAPTER ONE

## OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY

A primary purpose of this chapter is to set the study in perspective for the reader. The introduction also acquaints the reader with the topic, briefly explain what research has been done on the topic and the methodology used to study the problem. Finish with the aim of the study. The introduction should clearly indicate that the study is feasible. Note: Feasibility must be closely examined as not all studies are viable barriers to consider include sufficient studies to provide evidence to conduct the study, potential limits or denial by the IRB for ethical reasons, time that may be required to conduct the study, or areas of focus that are esoteric with limited application to the practice of psychology. Do not exceed one page on this section.

**Required Content Checklist to Ensure Completeness of the Section**

- Focus of the research is clearly stated.
- Method of conducting the study is clearly stated.
- Aims of the study are clearly stated.

**Background of the Problem**

Provides insights and perspectives for why the study should be conducted by presenting evidence that the problem exists with current data taken from valid and reliable sources. State clearly why the problem of pressing societal concern or theoretical interest and who is impacted by the problem. There should be a clear discussion of what research has been conducted to address the problem to identify what is known and needs to be known. **This section should be three to six pages depending on the amount of discussion needed to describe the problem and the previous research on the identified problem**

include historical facts and statistical data which supports the existence of the problem.

**Required Content Checklist to Ensure Completeness of the Section**

- Current data and facts support that existence of the problem.
- The psychological impact of the problem is clearly presented.
- The information describes who is impacted and how with **current** (five years old or newer) prevalence data and statistics research.
- What previous research has been conducted and how this approach distinguishes from previous research
- The background logically transitions to the problem statement.

**Statement of the Problem**

The statement of the problem should smoothly flow from the background section succinctly stating the issue that needs to be studied. The problem statement briefly describes facts that supports the need to conduct to the study. Clearly indicating who is impacted by the problem and presenting current evidence (five years old or newer) to support the existence of the problem. The Problem Statement will be half to three quarters of page.

**Note: lack of research is not a justification of a study.**

**Required Content Checklist to Ensure Completeness of the Section**

- The first sentence clearly states the problem needing to be studied.
- There is evidence based on current research that the problem exists and can be studied.
- The problem statement ends with a statement of the consequences for not addressing the problem.
- The Problem Statement does not exceed  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a page

### **Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the study should flow directly from the problem statement using similar wording to describe why the study is being conducted. In the first sentence state the purpose of the study and method for conducting the study.

The research questions will be presented and are aligned with the problem statement, the purpose, and methodology.

Generally, a study consists of 3-5 research questions. Please note that with quantitative studies null and alternative hypotheses will be included. **This section should be a page in length.**

### **Research Questions**

*RQ1.*

*RQ2.*

*RQ3.*

Quantitative studies will include hypotheses following the formatting below.

### **Hypotheses**

*H1<sub>0</sub>.*

*H1<sub>a</sub>.*

*H2<sub>0</sub>.*

*H2<sub>a</sub>.*

*H3<sub>0</sub>.*

*H3<sub>a</sub>.*

### **Required Content Checklist to Ensure Completeness of the Section**

- Purpose of the study is clearly stated in the first sentence.
- The purpose aligns with the problem statement.
- The methodology is clearly stated.
- The research questions align with the methodology and purpose.
- The research questions and hypotheses (if indicated) are aligned (where applicable).

### **Theoretical Framework**

Provide an introduction to the section. The candidate will identify the theory or theories or concepts that provide the foundation of the study. The section should be at least three paragraphs with the first providing a clear description of the theory. The second paragraph presenting studies that support the use of this theory with the study being developed. The third paragraph will include a discuss of how the theory will be applied to the current study. **This section should be one page in length unless there is more than one theory then there will be additional page for each additional theory.**

#### **Required Content Checklist to Ensure Completeness of the Section**

- The theory is clearly presented.
- Research conducted utilizing this theory is described.
- The theory is aligned with the presented study.

### **Significance of the Study**

The significance of the study addresses who will benefit from the study and how they will benefit. The doctoral candidate articulates specifically how the study will contribute to the existing theoretical literature and/or qualitative and quantitative findings within psychology.

**This section should not exceed one page**

#### **Required Content Checklist to Ensure Completeness of the Section**

- The beneficiaries of the study are clearly described.
- There is a clear indication how this study will contribute to literature within psychology.

### **Limitations, Delimitations, and Assumptions of the Study**

Limitations reflect possible weaknesses in the study related to the methodology that will be applied. The candidate must address the limitations over which there is no control or limited control. For various reasons, limitations of the study may be determined by such factors as a convenience sample meaning using participants that are not randomly selected which limits the generalizability of the results. The delimitations discussion provides information on the parameters of the study put in place by the candidate, such geographic location, population of focus, or specific eligibility criteria. This discussion should be as thorough as possible and may be updated once chapter three is approved by the committee. Assumptions regarding the study method will be presented. Quantitative studies must include assumptions associated with the analysis process identified in the purpose. **Please note that there should be a least a paragraph on each of three topic areas. This section should not exceed one page.**

**Required Content checklist to ensure completeness of the section:**

- The presented limitations are directly linked to the research method
- The delimitations are directly linked to the study design.
- Assumptions are clearly stated regarding the research method.

**Definitions and Key Terms**

In this section each term will be presented followed by the definition and source. Terms directly relate to the topic and not commonly used or understood. The definitions should be listed as a level two heading in alphabetical order following the example below.

**Term**

Definition, author and date.

Example below

**Microaggressions**

Microaggressions are messages that can range from subtle to overt, verbal or non-verbal,



and contain derogatory content about members of marginalized social groups (Nadal et al., 2016).

#### **Required Content Checklist to Ensure Completeness of the Section**

- All appropriate terms are listed.
- Terms are correctly formatted.

#### **Organization**

Provide an overview for each of the remaining chapters specific to the topic providing information that will highlight important aspects of each chapter.

#### **Required Content Checklist to Ensure Completeness of the Section**

- Each remaining chapter is presented.
- The discussion of each chapter reflects information specific to the study.
- Alphabetize terms

 BEST DISSERTATION  
WRITERS

## CHAPTER TWO

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The review of the literature reflects current research on the established focus of the study in Chapter One's Statement of the Problem.

1. The introduction provides an overview of the chapter.
2. The candidate organizes the literature review per topic area, critically evaluates the literature with an integrated discussion of the research related to the topic, highlights important unanswered questions, identifies methodological problems with past studies as well as areas of controversy in the literature, and discusses the significance of past research in relationship to the current study. Additionally, the theoretical framework of the study is to be fully discussed.

The literature review is an **exhaustive** discussion comprised of current sources of which **85% are within the past 5 years**. All sources must be credible such as peer-reviewed studies. Not included are any .com websites. Places to begin your search are the University's online library, Google Scholar, and/or APA databases.

3. The summary for chapter two should reflect the relationships established from the review of the literature and articulate links to the theoretical framework.

**Note: The Literature will be a minimal of 45 pages. The following pages provide a view of the sections included in Chapter Two:**

Directly under the chapter title, provide a brief introduction to the chapter of a paragraph or two in length that is mostly in your own words. Focus on information that will draw the readers' interest by discussing the various topic areas in relation to the focus of the study. There is no heading of introduction for this portion of the chapter.

**Provide Heading for First Topic (Centered, Bold, Title Case Heading)**

Discussion of first topic. Provide an introduction and present the pertinent results or evidence of the research associated with the topic with emphasis on what was found in studies related to this, why it is important and how that relates to other research on the topic. Provide a summary of the research presented.

Introduce any subheadings. What follows is a guide for the sub-headings. You must have two or more subheadings for each level used. **A discussion within a subheading is at least three or more paragraphs.**

**Subheading-Level Two (Flush Left, Bold, Title Case Heading)**

Discussion of topic. Provide intent, present the research, show integration of research, remain neutral show research that supports the topic and research that refutes in part or whole other research.

***Subheading-Level Three (Flush Left, Bold Italic, Title Case Heading)***

Discussion for topic. Provide intent and present the integrative and exhaustive review of the research.

***Subheading-Level Three***

Discussion for topic. Provide intent and present the integrative and exhaustive review of the research.

**Subheading-Level Two**

Discussion for topic. Provide intent and present the integrative and exhaustive review of the research.

**Subheading-Level Two**

Discussion for topic. Provide intent and present the integrative and exhaustive review of the research.

### **Discussion for Section**

Present conclusions on the research presented through discussions of the strengths and weaknesses of the studies presented. This discussion should involve a review of the research method and sampling plans to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the articles reviewed in each section. Also, there should be a focus on any identified gaps based on the review of the strengths and weaknesses of the studies presented in this section.

**Note: Repeat topic presentation as needed for your study. In general, there will be three or four major headings prior to presenting the Theoretical Framework.**

### **Theoretical Framework**

Provide introduction. Highlights include the origins of the theory. The version of the theory you will use by specific author(s) and date(s). Describe the components of the theory. Relate the components to the critical areas of your study. Highlight how the theory has been used by others.

### **Summary**

The summary for chapter two should reflect the relationships established from the review of the literature and articulate links to the theoretical framework.

### **Required Content Checklist to Ensure Completeness of the Section**

- 85% of the studies are five years old or less.
- There is synthesis of research around the topic areas.
- There is evidence that research is exhaustive.
- Strengths and weaknesses of studies is provided in the discussion for section

- The presented research provides answers to the research questions.
- The chapter is at least 45 pages and includes 80-100 studies minimally



## CHAPTER THREE

## METHODOLOGY

In the introduction provide a discussion which encompasses one **paragraph long** re-statement of the problem and the research questions. While there is an introduction there is no heading of introduction. For a quantitative study the hypotheses are also included.

**Note: Chapter Three must include sufficient information to allow the study to be replicated.**

**Required Content Checklist to Ensure Completeness of the Section**

- Introduction includes a discussion of the problem.
- Research questions are listed.

**Research Method**

A statement of either a qualitative, quantitative, mixed-methods, or evidence synthesis approach (i.e., systematic or scoping literature review), should follow. Include a discussion of why your chosen methodology was the correct choice to answer the problem and research questions of the study. A discussion is provided of how the research design, whether phenomenological, narrative, case studies, correlational, descriptive, causal-comparative, or quasi-experimental, is the legitimate, appropriate research design as compared to other designs associated with the methodology chosen. You will also include a clear explanation why other research methods were not applied to this study. Use peer-reviewed sources to ground your discussion. This section should be 2-3 pages.

**Required Content Checklist to Ensure Completeness of the Section**

- The methodology is identified with a rationale for the selected design.
- The research method is clearly described and justified with citation.

- There is an explanation supported by citation of why other research methods are not used.

### **Participants**

The candidate will describe the location of the participants; discuss the criteria for selecting those participants (e.g., what characteristics do they possess that make them suitable for the area of investigation). Include the number of participants in the study and how the sample size was determined. Discuss the process by which the members of the sample were selected (such as random sampling or purposeful sampling) and include any important distinctions existing between the participants (e.g., gender or ethnicity). For evidence synthesis-based studies, describe the target participants for the proposed study and explain that participants will come from prior research, not direct involvement with human subjects. For studies involving human participants this section should 2-3 pages in length to cover all the required information. For evidence synthesis a paragraph will be sufficient.

#### **Required Content Checklist to Ensure Completeness of the Section**

- Participants are clearly described.
- Number of participants that will be needed to be recruited is clearly presented and supported with citation.

### **Instrumentation**

Provide a description of the instruments or protocols that were used surveys, interviews, observations, or artifacts. Provide an example of each instrument as an appendix. Describe in detail the instruments used in the study. Provide a thorough explanation of why these instruments or protocols were selected. Questions in created surveys should be directly related to the research questions. Discuss the reliability and validity of all instruments and how those factors were

obtained. For Qualitative research makes sure you explain how you developed the interview guide and how the interview questions will provide information needed to answer the research questions.

**Note: Systematic Literature Reviews (SLR) or Scoping Reviews (ScR) that involve the use of protocols (i.e. PRISMA-2020 or PRISMA-ScR) need to provide a discussion of the instrument in this section. If there is not an instrument paired with the SLR or ScR, there must be clear justification mentioned in the research methods section.**

**Required Content Checklist to Ensure Completeness of the Section.**

**This section can vary in length depending on the number of instruments that will be utilized.**

- The instrument is clearly presented and when applicable the statistical information supporting tool is included.
- There is a clear justification for the use of the tool.
- Interview questions for qualitative studies are listed according to the research question that the information will be used to answer.
- Permission from the author that developed the scale or tool is provided in writing or a public domain statement is list in the appendices.

### **Data Collection**

The candidate will provide a **concise** but thorough description of the steps used to collect data from the participants. Qualitative and Quantitative studies will include a step by step description of the recruitment processes and/or communication; the informed consent process; and note the data collection schedule. All documents will be identified and listed as appendices. If interviews were conducted indicate the length, the number, where conducted, and stipulate



how they were recorded. For scales and/or surveys, describe the procedures for how they will be distributed and collected. If artifacts/archival data are to be utilized, describe the process by which the data was procured, selected, and utilized. For any other methods of data collection provide a complete description of all processes. Include all other procedures and processes needed in order to replicate the study.

For systematic literature reviews or scoping reviews, provide the steps used in selection of the research articles. Include keywords used in the searches and databases. Also describe the tools used (i.e., PRISMA-2020 or PRISMA-ScR, as applicable) to this process. If applicable, include the [PRISMA Flow Diagram](#) as a figure to this section, leaving the article totals (n= ) blank initially (article totals will be added after the conclusion of the SLR, and presented in chapter four). This section should be 1-2 pages but can be longer if needed to clearly describe the steps.

#### **Required Content Checklist to Ensure Completeness of the Section**

- Data Collection is presented in a step-by-step discussion.
- All documents included in the data collection process are included and listed as appendices.
- The process is presented clearly and the instructions allow replication.
- If conducting human subject research, the Informed Consent from page 41 of the doctoral project manual

#### **Data Analysis**

The candidate describes the analysis of the data that was performed as well as the specific steps taken. It is important to reference a research methods book to detail this process.

Researcher bias, validity, reliability and other research factors should be addressed as appropriate.

Keep in mind that someone else should be able to replicate the analysis conducted from the information in this section. This section should be 1-2 pages but can be longer with more complex studies.

### **Required Content Checklist to Ensure Completeness of the Section**

- If the study involves an evidence synthesis then clearly differentiate selection/sorting articles from examination of content in respect to the steps in analysis.
- For all types of analysis (Evidence Synthesis, Qualitative, or Quantitative) each step of the analysis process is identified and clearly presented.
- The section should clearly exhibit how the information derived from the analysis will be used to write the results section in chapter four.
- The discussion includes ethical considerations related to bias, reliability and validity.

### **Ethical Assurances**

- Confirm in a statement the study will (proposal) or did (manuscript) receive approval from the University's Institutional Review Board (IRB) prior to data collection.
- If the risk to participants is greater than minimal, discuss the relevant ethical issues and how they will be (proposal) or were (manuscript) addressed.
- Describe how confidentiality will be protected including storage of materials (proposal) or was (manuscript) achieved.
- Describe the role of the researcher in the study. Discuss relevant issues, including biases as well as personal and professional experiences with the topic that may

influence the study. Present the strategies that will be (proposal) or were (manuscript) used to prevent these biases and experiences from influencing the analysis or findings.

**Required Content Checklist to Ensure Completeness of the Section**

- State the study will receive IRB approval prior to recruitment.
- Discuss any risks that exceed minimal concerns and methods to address any possible negative effects.
- Provide clear information on storage of data including how long and when it will be destroyed.
- Examine any biases that may influence the study and how these will be mitigated.



## CHAPTER FOUR

### RESULTS

Chapter Four is where the results from this project are articulated in response to the research questions.

An introduction of the chapter is provided which includes a brief overview of the focus of the study and the research questions. Next, describe the participants. The results will follow in response to the research questions. Generally, the results are presented by research question. A brief interpretation or meaning without discussion is reported. Only the amount of explanation necessary to help the reader understand the basis for the outcomes of the results is included. Articulate how the results lead to a specific finding which will be discussed in chapter 5. The report of the results must be thorough enough for the reader to make an independent judgment about the research. Summarize the overall findings established from the results presented.

For qualitative studies, present the themes which emerged in response to the research questions. Subheadings are used for themes associated with the research question. For quantitative studies, present the results obtained in directly answering the research question

The following provides an overview of what is included in this chapter.

Provide an introduction for results. No heading is to follow the chapter heading.

#### **Required Content Checklist to Ensure Completeness of the Section**

- The introduction is brief and includes a focus of the study and research questions.
- This section should be a page or less.

#### **Participants**

Discussion of participants. Provide any details of the participants as long as the details relate specifically to the research questions. For Qualitative and Quantitative studies present a

description of each participant in the study. Whenever possible create at least one table that presents characteristics of the population studied. This will be useful for the oral defense.

### **Required Content Checklist to Ensure Completeness of the Section**

- For qualitative studies each participant is clearly described. For qualitative systemic literature reviews and quantitative studies there is a general demographic description of participants.

### **Results Research Question One**

Introduction provides the aim of the question. Context for the range of possibilities. Assert themes or significant results.

**Qualitative Studies:** Human participants themes will include the number of participants that support each theme. Present each research questions followed themes. Subheadings are used for themes associated with the research question. Information under subheadings are three (3) or more paragraphs and each theme must include at least two quotes.

**QSLR or Evidence Synthesis studies:** Each theme will include the number of articles used to support the theme. Evidence Synthesis, Qualitative Systematic Literature Review (QSLR), Scoping Review (ScR) studies will follow a similar format. The research questions will be presented as level one headings followed by themes that will be listed as level two headings.

**Quantitative studies:** resent the results obtained in directly answering the research questions followed by whether the null or alternative hypothesis was accepted

The introduction for each research question provides the aim of the question and context for the range of possibilities. Assert themes or significant results. Note: Themes are not presented with quantitative results.

### **Theme One**

Discussions for subheadings are three or more paragraphs.

### **Theme Two**

Discussions for subheadings are three or more paragraphs.

### **Discussion Research Question One**

**Note: Repeat this process for each research question in your study.**

Articulate how the evidence presented supports or leads to a specific finding or findings.

Describe any links to the applicable theory or framework.

### **Required Content Checklist to Ensure Completeness of the Section**

- Evidence Synthesis, Qualitative Systematic Literature Review (QSLR), or Scoping Review (ScR) themes are listed as level two headings.
- Themes are unique to the study and information obtained through data collection.
- Qualitative themes: include a statement of the number of participants supporting the theme and each theme contains two quotes.
- Evidence Synthesis, QSLR or ScR themes: indicate the number of articles used to develop the theme.
- Quantitative studies: present the statistical results.
- Quantitative studies: state if the null or alternative hypothesis is accepted.

### **Summary**

In one or two paragraphs, provide a summary of the chapter.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### DISCUSSION

Chapter Five is where the discussion of the findings from the study are presented. The discussion should align the findings with the theoretical and conceptual framework that was defined in Chapter Two.

Begin with a brief overview of the study which includes the problem, purpose, research questions, theory, and brief description of the methodology. This section should be around a page to a page and half.

#### **Required Content Checklist to Ensure Completeness of the Section**

- The overview includes a brief statement of the problem.
- A brief purpose statement is presented.
- The research questions are stated exactly as they were in chapter one.
- There is a brief description of the theory.
- There is a brief description of the methodology.

#### **Findings**

Next the candidate asserts and connects the findings to the predominate studies identified in the literature review, indicating how the results relate to this literature and provides explanations for the findings. Although much of this creative emphasis will be revealed in how the findings are correlated with the existing literature, the significance of the findings beyond data analysis should be speculated. Provide a discussion regarding changes in the limitations or delimitations of the research. Use the formatting below.

#### **Research Question One**

Here report on the answer to the question using information from chapter two and chapter four. Do not restate themes or represent the quotes from data collection. Focus on the answer and evidence that supports this outcome. This section should contain a significant number of citations as evidence of support.

### **Research Question Two**

Repeat the process described above

### **Research Question Three**

Repeat the process described above

**This section is typically four to eight pages depending on the number of research questions.**

### **Required Content Checklist to Ensure Completeness of the Section**

- Findings related to each research questions are clearly presented.
- Findings are connected to the literature.
- There is a discussion of the how each finding is generalizable or transferable depending on the type of study.

### **Implications for Professional Practice**

The candidate will present a discussion of the implications of the study for professional practice and scholarly work in the field of psychology. Included are any recommendations for changes in psychological concepts and knowledge or any recommended changes applied to clinical practice. All implications are to be linked explicitly to specific results from the candidate's study and research where appropriate. **This should be a concisely written section of one to three pages.**

### **Required Content Checklist to Ensure Completeness of the Section**

- There are clear and specific recommendations for professional practice.



- Recommendations are linked to the results.

### **Recommendations for Research**

The section should begin with stating the next most logical step in advancing the present study and why this is the next most logical step. Additionally, the candidate will present suggested future research topics based on the study that could expand this field of knowledge or which will direct scholars to new areas for further exploration. **Note: A few other recommendations will suffice be conservative. This section should be two to three pages.**

#### **Required Content Checklist to Ensure Completeness of the Section**

- There are clear recommendations for future studies.
- The recommendations encompass the area of the field of psychology that will be expanded by the research.
- Be conservative in recommendations as to not overstate the possibilities of future studies.

### **Conclusions**

Finally, the candidate will summarize personal insights and any final reflections in conclusion of the study.

#### **Required Content Checklist to Ensure Completeness of the Section**

- There is a clear indication of insights.

REFERENCES



## APPENDIX A

**Informed Consent**

*Note to Investigators:*

*When creating informed consent letters, investigators are encouraged to keep language and vocabulary as basic and straightforward as possible. Investigators are also encouraged to use this template when creating informed consent letters. Use of alternative wording or format is permitted, but doing so may slow down the review process. All sections of the consent form, except the "Consent" section, should be written in second person ("You are invited...").*

*Headers should include "Informed Consent" followed by the title of the study (e.g., the header in this document). Footers should include page numbers. If your consent letter is more than one page, the footer should also include a space for the participant's initials (e.g., the footer in this document).*

*Be sure to include any basic components of informed consent that are appropriate to your study.*

*\*\*Information in italics is for your information and should be deleted from the actual consent form. Material in brackets should be completed with relevant information. \*\**

**TITLE OF STUDY**

[Insert title]

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR**

[Name]

[Department]

[Address]

[Phone]

[Email]

**PURPOSE OF STUDY**

You are being asked to take part in a research study. Before you decide to participate in this study, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the following information carefully. Please ask the researcher if there is anything that is not clear or if you need more information.

The purpose of this study is to [Briefly describe purpose of study.]

**STUDY PROCEDURES**

*List all procedures, preferably in chronological order, which will be employed in the study. Point out any procedures that are considered experimental. Clearly explain technical and medical terminology using non-technical language. Explain all procedures using language that is appropriate for the expected reading level of participants.*

*State the amount of time required of participants per session, if applicable, and for the total*

*duration of the study.*

*If audio taping, videotaping, or film procedures are going to be used, provide information about the use of these products.*

## **RISKS**

*List all reasonably foreseeable risks, if any, of each of the procedures to be used in the study, and any measures that will be used to minimize the risks.*

You may decline to answer any or all questions and you may terminate your involvement at any time if you choose.

## **BENEFITS**

*List the benefits you anticipate will be achieved from this research. Include benefits to participants, others, or the body of knowledge. If there is no direct benefit to the participant, state so. For example, "There will be no direct benefit to you for your participation in this study. However, we hope that the information obtained from this study may...."*

*When applicable, disclose alternative procedures or courses of treatment, if any, which might be advantageous to participants.*

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Your responses to this [survey] will be anonymous. Please do not write any identifying information on your [survey]. OR For the purposes of this research study, your comments will not be anonymous. Every effort will be made by the researcher to preserve your confidentiality including the following:

[State measures taken to ensure confidentiality, such as those listed below:

- Assigning code names/numbers for participants that will be used on all research notes and documents
- Keeping notes, interview transcriptions, and any other identifying participant information in a locked file cabinet for XX years in the personal possession of the researcher.]

Participant data will be kept confidential except in cases where the researcher is legally obligated to report specific incidents. These incidents include, but may not be limited to, incidents of abuse and suicide risk.

## **COMPENSATION**

*If there is no compensation, delete this section.*

*Indicate what participants will receive for their participation in this study. Indicate other ways participants can earn the same amount of credit or compensation. State whether participants will be eligible for compensation if they withdraw from the study prior to its completion. If compensation is pro-rated over the period of the participant's involvement, indicate the points/stages at which compensation changes during the study.*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions at any time about this study, or you experience adverse effects as the result of participating in this study, you may contact the researcher whose contact information is provided on the first page. If you have questions regarding your rights as a research participant, or if problems arise which you do not feel you can discuss with the Primary Investigator, please contact the Institutional Review Board at [irb@trident.edu](mailto:irb@trident.edu)

## VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION

Your participation in this study is voluntary. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part in this study. If you decide to take part in this study, you will be asked to sign a consent form. After you sign the consent form, you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. Withdrawing from this study will not affect the relationship you have, if any, with the researcher. If you withdraw from the study before data collection is completed, your data will be returned to you or destroyed.

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*Note: Please delineate the "Consent" section of the Informed Consent Form by drawing a line across the page (like the one above this paragraph). This delineation is important because the consent form grammar shifts from second person to first person, as shown in this example.*

## CONSENT

I have read and I understand the provided information and have had the opportunity to ask questions. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason and without cost. I understand that I will be given a copy of this consent form. I voluntarily agree to take part in this study.

Participant's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Investigator's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

