

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

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.

Commented [B.D.W1]: Academic Review Tip:

All headings (preliminary pages to the appendices) must be consistently placed following the DP Template

Font style must Times New Roman 12 point, and typeface according to 7th edition of APA heading levels.

Commented [B.D.W2]: Academic Review Tip: Providing prevalence data on the individuals that are experiencing the problem and other related quantifiable data represents the strongest evidence the problem exists. Data on the social impact such as economic impact and other types of noted affects should be presented. Remember this should be put presented as data and statistics.

One of the most common academic review revision issues is lack of data and statistics in this section to describe the impact of the problem. Prevalence data is how problems are most commonly described such as 30% of college students report experiencing significant anxiety.

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

Commented [B.D.W3]: Academic Review Tip: The problem statement needs to be concise 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

H1₀.

H1_a.

H2₀.

H2_a.

H3₀.

H3_a.

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).

Commented [B.D.W4]: Academic Review Tip: Make sure that your background, problem, purpose and research questions align. There should not be a problem or issue that is introduced the purpose that was not mentioned in the background and problem. Also, the research questions should align with the study method and reflect alignment with the problem and purpose.

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

Commented [B.D.W5]: When writing the theoretical framework, start by clearly defining the theory or theories central to your study. In the first paragraph, explain the key concepts and principles of the theory, providing context for its relevance. The second paragraph should reference existing studies that have applied this theory, highlighting its empirical support. In the final paragraph, describe how the theory will guide your current research, demonstrating its application to your specific research problem. Maintain coherence and relevance throughout.

Commented [B.D.W6]: The Limitations section addresses weaknesses in methodology, such as using a convenience sample that limits generalizability. Delimitations explain the study's boundaries, like geographic location, population, or eligibility criteria. Assumptions outline expected conditions for the research method. Each section should be one paragraph, ensuring clarity and direct connection to the research method and design. This section should be concise and no longer than one page.

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,

Commented [B.D.W7]: In this section, define key terms relevant to the study, listing them alphabetically with definitions and sources. Each term should be followed by the author and publication date. Ensure correct formatting and inclusion of all relevant terms.

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

Commented [B.D.W8]: Note: Chapter One is typically 10-15% of the entire dissertation



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.