

Research Question Assignment Details

Due: April 9, 2019 10am

A brief (2-3 paragraph) description of the study topic, a justification of the study's importance, and an explanation of why the topic and question are appropriate to qualitative research. The research question must be clearly articulated and the description should include 3-5 references from the peer-reviewed literature.

Tips

Follow the "funnel structure," going broad to specific.

1. Background: What is the topic
2. Context: What is known and what previous research has been done before?
3. Challenge: What isn't known, and why is that gap important?
4. Question: What is the aim of your study? What is the purpose?

Begin each paragraph with a thesis sentence (ie, the first sentence should tell me what the rest of the paragraph will be about). The next 3-4 sentences should explain or support your thesis sentence. These supporting sentences are usually where your peer-reviewed references go. The last sentence should signal where you are going so I already understand why the next paragraph is important when I read that topic sentence.

Try to keep your sentences short and snappy. After you write out your assignment read it again and see how many sentences you can cut down into 2, 3, or even 4 separate sentences.

Grading criteria

These are what I will be looking for, in relative order of importance:

1. Is your research question appropriate to qualitative research and relatively feasible (ie, narrow)?
2. Do you justify why qualitative methods are the best way to answer your particular research question?
3. Do you justify why qualitative research is necessary to address the knowledge gap you describe in point 3 of your funnel?
4. Do you take all the space allotted to fully flesh out your ideas? In other words, is each paragraph *roughly* five full sentences? Is the full assignment at least 250 words (but please, no more than 600)?
5. Is your assignment pleasant to read? Is it well written with clear and consistent formatting (APA or MLA)?

Products:

1. Your research question, posted to Knit by April 9 at 10am
2. Your references posted to shared Google sheet by April 9
2. Three constructive peer review comments of your group members research question draft (in class)