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Submission Date: August 15th, 2023

Assignment #1 – Core Essential Elements

1. Select One (1) Core Essential Element from the Syllabus Outline:

a. Research Design Distinctions: How do quantitative and qualitative research

methodologies differ regarding their data collection approaches and overall

objectives? How might the choice of research design impact the study's

outcomes and the researcher's ability to address specific research questions

effectively?

b. Formulating Research Questions: When developing research questions for a

study, what criteria should be considered to ensure they are meaningful and

appropriately formatted? How can research questions be aligned with the

problem and purpose statements to guide the research process effectively?

c. Dissertation Structure: Explore the structure and sections of a dissertation. How

do these sections contribute to a research study's overall presentation and

organization? How does the dissertation structure ensure that research findings

are communicated clearly and coherently to the audience?

**Dissertation Structure:**

A dissertation has an intentional structure. There is always a title page as well as an abstract that gives a short summary of the research focus and findings.

One critical element of a dissertation is the literature review which is a recap of what ha already been researched on any particular topic. My definition of a literature review is a conversation between authors that have written on the same topic the dissertation writer has researched and is writing on. Within the literature review, there is what I call a written engagement between scholars, theorists and experts in the field. This element of the dissertation should share similarities and divergent findings. References to landmark studies should be included and a comparison of methodologies (discuss strengths and weaknesses), and findings.

It is important within the literature review to identify gaps in the literature (what areas have not been covered) and identify key statistics found among writers.

Gavin & Gavin (2017) note that literature review articles should be well-written accounts that educate readers on the most recent findings in a particular area of research and should provide insight into what is already known.

After the literature review, the methodology is usually discussed, sharing how the research was conducted. Readers need to know if it was a longitudinal study, or a more terse research method. Ethical considerations are also shared. Readers should know how and if participants gave permission to give interviews or if results were discussed with them and whether real names were used. Transparency on the protection of minors is included as well.

One of the most interesting elements would be whether the null hypothesis was proven or disproven and whether a theory was validated. This information, along with meanings and implications of the study are placed within the results and discussion sections.

Other sections of dissertation may be acknowledgements, charts and tables, list of abbreviations as well as glossary and appendices.

Laying out a dissertation in this manner assures that the reader will understand the focus and purpose of the research and have an understanding of whether the problem stated at the beginning was addressed. A dissertation must be concise, clear and well organized in order to be not only coherent but effective enough to one day impact the discipline researched and even affect public policy.

**WORKS CITED**

Galvin, J.L. & M.C. Galvin. (2017). *Writing literature reviews: A guide for students of the social and behavioral sciences*. Routledge.