Chapter 1

Your Name

Omega Graduate School

Date

Your Chair Name

# Introduction(1 page)

Introduce your topic, stating why it is important and interesting. Briefly outline the main goals and the structure of your dissertation. Chapters 1-3 should be in future tense until the Institutional Review Board approves your proposal and you are approved to begin data collection. Chapters will be reverted to past tense later.

NOTE: consistently refer to your dissertation as “this dissertation” and do not use other permutations (such as “this study” or “this research,” etc).

# Statement of the Problem (1-2 paragraphs)

Clearly articulate the problem your dissertation aims to address. Use the format of the problem statement provided in the Prospectus Template.

NOTE: Something being “unknown” or a gap in the literature does not, in itself, constitute a problem. State how the problem directly affects participants.

The problem is [state the problem concisely] among [name your participants clearly] in a [state the scope/delimitation/boundary of your study].

# Purpose Statement (1-2 paragraphs)

State the purpose of your dissertation. Use the format of the purpose statement provided in the Prospectus Template.

The purpose of this [methodology] [design] dissertation is to [explore/examine] [the problem] among [participants].

# Significance (1 page)

State the significance of your dissertation and why it is necessary to address the problem.

# Background of the Problem (1-2 pages)

Briefly summarize the context for the problem. Describe historical developments and previous studies relevant to your dissertation topic. Note any specific sociological theories that will inform your understanding of the problem.

# Research Questions (1-2 paragraphs)

List the specific questions your dissertation seeks to answer. Ensure they are clear, focused, and directly related to the problem statement. Use the format of research questions provided in the Prospectus Template.

NOTE: Use interrogatives like “What” and “How” for your research questions to ensure they are sufficiently broad.

# Hypotheses (1-2 paragraphs, quantitative only)

Present the hypotheses your study will test. Each hypothesis should be a clear, testable statement predicting an outcome based on your theory. Use the format of hypotheses provided in the Prospectus Template.

H01: No statistically significant [difference/relationships] exists in [dependent variable] between [independent variable] among [participants].

Ha1: A statistically significant [difference/relationships] exists in [dependent variable] between [independent variable] among [participants].

# Research Methodology and Design (1-2 pages)

Briefly summarize the research method and design you will use. Explain your choice of qualitative or quantitative methods, a specific design (quasi-experimental, correlational, or basic qualitative), data collection techniques, and analysis strategies. Summarize, do not duplicate, the sections in Chapter 3.

# Operational Definitions (1 page)

Define all key terms and concepts used in your dissertation. These definitions should clarify how you measure variables and concepts used throughout your dissertation and derive from your literature review in Chapter 2.

*Term* – definition (Author, Year, p. 123).

# Scope and Delimitations (1-2 pages)

Summarize the scope of your dissertation, including the subjects and geographic area. Describe the delimitations, explaining the boundaries you have set for your dissertation such as what it can and cannot address.

# Limitations (1 page)

Briefly summarize any potential weaknesses in your dissertation. Discuss factors such as sample size, methodology, or biases that could affect your results. Do not try to mitigate the limitations; disclose them.

# Assumptions (1 page)

Briefly summarize the assumptions underlying your dissertation. These might include theoretical assumptions or assumptions about your participants, data collection, and analysis process. Biases should be acknowledged, and any faith-based perspectives should be disclosed.

# Summary and Conclusion (1 page)

Summarize the key points of your chapter. Briefly restate the problem, your approach, and the significance of your dissertation. Indicate how this chapter sets the stage for the forthcoming chapters.