Chapter 3

Your Name

Omega Graduate School

Date

Your Chair Name

# Introduction (1 page)

Introduce the methodology chapter, outlining the structure and significance of this section in your dissertation. Explain how this methodology will address your research questions.

# Research Questions (1-2 paragraphs)

Clearly state the research questions guiding your dissertation. These questions should directly relate to the problem identified in Chapter 1 and be designed to be answered through your chosen methodology. Use the format provided in the Prospectus.

# Hypotheses (1-2 paragraphs, quantitative only)

For dissertations employing quantitative methods, present your hypotheses. These should be specific, testable predictions derived from your theoretical framework. Use the format provided in the Prospectus.

# Research Methodology and Design (1-2 pages)

Describe the overall approach and design of your study. Include whether your dissertation uses qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods, and justify your choice. Justify your chosen design (quasi-experimental or correlational for quantitative or basic qualitative).

## Population and Sampling (1 page)

Define the size and demographics of the target population related to your dissertation topic and explain your sampling strategy. Include details on sample size and how participants are selected. Samples should have at least 15 participants for a basic qualitative or non-parametric quantitative design (applying only to the sample) design. Procedures for securing site permission should be documented.

## Instrumentation (1-2 pages)

Discuss the instruments you will use to collect data, such as surveys, archival data, or interview protocols. Explain the development and selection of these instruments. For validated survey instruments, be sure to cite the studies in which they were validated. For qualitative interview protocols, describe a process for field testing with subject matter experts.

## Variables

Tables or matrices should align your research questions and the constructs/variables measured by your instruments to help establish clear organization and structure.

**Table 1***Alignment of Variables to Research Questions*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Quantitative Variable(s) or Qualitative Open-Ended Question(s) | Research Question | Theory or Literature Support |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

## Validity and Reliability (1-2 pages)

Address the validity and reliability of your chosen instruments. Describe steps to ensure your data collection methods accurately measure what they intend to measure.

Qualitative interview protocols should address credibility, transferability/applicability, dependability, and confirmability/trustworthiness.

# Data Collection and Analysis

## Data Collection (1 page)

Outline the procedures for collecting data. Detail the steps, timeline, and protocols for ensuring data collection consistency and quality.

## Data Preparation (1-2 paragraphs)

Describe the processes for preparing data for analysis, such as cleaning and organizing quantitative data or transcribing and member-checking qualitative data.

## Data Analysis (1 page)

Explain the methods and techniques for analyzing the collected data. Specify different analytical strategies for qualitative or quantitative data as appropriate. For quantitative designs, state the statistical tests, assumptions testing, non-parametric alternatives to parametric tests, and post hoc procedures.

For qualitative studies, delineate the steps of Creswell & Poth’s data analysis spiral and you will apply them to your dissertation.

# Ethical Considerations (1-2 pages)

Discuss ethical issues related to your dissertation research and how they will be addressed. Include considerations for participant consent, confidentiality, and data security. NIH/CITI certification should be documented as an appendix.

## Participant Consent (1 page)

Carefully describe how participants will be protected and informed of their rights and how consent will be captured.

## Bias Acknowledgment and Mitigation (1 page)

Acknowledge potential biases in your dissertation research and outline strategies to mitigate these biases, such as researcher bias, selection bias, or data analysis bias. Acknowledge how faith-based biases will inform or potentially skew data analysis. It is always best to disclose potential bias rather than try to conceal it.

# Summary and Conclusion (1 page)

Summarize the key points of your methodology chapter. Highlight how your chosen methods will effectively address your research questions and contribute to your dissertation's purpose.