Doctor of Education Program
Contemporary Approaches to Educational Problems
Literature Review

Introduction

The main outcome for the Contemporary Approaches to Educational Problems (CAE) course is a synthesis of research literature related to your Problem of Practice (POP). This synthesis should draw on the annotated bibliography compiled in your fall courses, *Multiple Perspectives on Learning and Teaching* and *Disciplinary Approaches in Education*, as you work toward your Year 1 paper for the Applied Dissertation. The literature review should articulate the contextual, theoretical, and empirical foundation for your POP. This foundation will inform your choice of constructs that you will examine within your needs assessment study for the *Research Methods I* course. The literature review must also summarize and synthesize the arguments and ideas found within published primary and secondary research. Your synthesis of this literature will be presented at the end of the course; however, to be successful in this assignment, you should be gathering and reviewing literature through the entire course.

Secondary sources (e.g., books or websites that provide an analysis of other’s research) are appropriate as a starting point to understand the research landscape; however, they **should not** be included within your required fifteen minimum peer-reviewed journal articles*. If you intend to use these secondary sources to make a particular point within your literature review, please refer to the library orientation within the EdD Program Site for information regarding evaluation of sources and cite the source appropriately. Though you may summarize an article as part of your discussion, your goal is to provide an analysis of your selected journal articles and synthesis across the articles. You should not summarize each peer-reviewed journal article individually; rather draw connections across these resources as you are working to deeply understand the issue that you are examining within your context of professional practice (i.e., your POP).

Directions

1. Consider your needs assessment study for the Research Methods I (RMI) course. What constructs did you identify in order to gain knowledge of your POP within your professional context? Where there additional concepts or factors that are related to your research questions, but were not part of your RMI data collection?

*NOTE: Remember that this literature review will form the basis for Chapter II of your dissertation, which will be part of your Year 1 paper submission. You are strongly encouraged to far exceed the minimum number of references for the present paper to lighten your effort during the summer semester.*
2. Review the literature from your annotated bibliography and identify how these primary sources can be synthesized to inform your POP within your professional context.

3. Conduct a literature search to fill in any gaps you have identified in the literature included in your annotated bibliography. Please review the library module before you begin your literature search.

4. Engage in the discussions during session one on the characteristics of a literature review.

5. Select at least fifteen* peer-reviewed journal articles that report primary research related to constructs that you will examine within the needs assessment study.

6. The literature review should follow the standard guidelines for APA formatting for paper organization and references, use Times New Roman, 12 point font, one inch margins, double-spaced text, and limit the length to 3000-3500 words. The title page, abstract, and reference list do not count toward the expected word count. Refer to the Literature Review rubric found in the Session 1 tab of the course site for the evaluation criteria.

7. Submit your Literature Review to the Gradebook by the end of Session 5.

This assignment is worth 40 points (not including the outline and draft).

**Guidelines for successful completion of this literature review**

The goal of the literature review paper is to provide the contextual, theoretical, and empirical foundation for your POP. This foundation will inform your choice of constructs that you will examine within your needs assessment study for the Research Methods I course, and complement your needs assessment study. To conduct your needs assessment in the RMI course, you will need to know what the literature says about your POP. Therefore, the following guidelines are provided:

1. By end of Session 1 (Weeks 1 & 2): Complete the readings on how to write a literature review. Engage in an online conversation about the characteristics of a literature review. Review your annotated bibliography and develop an outline for your literature review. Submit your outline in the Gradebook.

2. By end of Session 3 (Weeks 7 & 8): Use this work session to write a first draft of the literature review. Students will be paired and using the discussion board, students will submit the draft of the literature review at the end of the session. The peer reviewer will read the literature review, provide feedback, and submit the feedback to their partner by the end of Week 9. Feedback will be reviewed by the instructor and suggestions will be provided.

3. Session 5 (Weeks 14 & 15): Review the feedback of your peer review partner and instructor. Polish your synthesis of the literature. Submit your literature review to your advisor and to the Gradebook by the end of Session 5.

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Please refer to the description of the Applied Dissertation (Chapter II) to familiarize yourself with the required sections. You need to focus on the following parts of your Applied Dissertation:

Introduction of POP (Year 1; refine Year 2)
   A. Overview of the POP
   B. Literature review including theoretical frame for the needs assessment study.
   C. Statement of the problem including project objectives
   D. Statement of “initial” POP research questions (Note: “initial” refers to the POP as reflected in the application and developed over the initial semester

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