**Writing up your research proposal**

1. **TITLE:** This relates to the research problem that you have identified
2. **Table of content**

**Section 1 (or Chapter 1)**

3. **Introduction**

   a. **Background:** The introduction provides the reader with the background information for your research. In the introduction, the writer should:
      i. Create reader interest in the topic
      ii. Lay the broad foundation for the problem that leads to the study,
      iii. Place the study within the larger context of scholarly literature and
      iv. Reach out to a specific audience (Creswell, 1994, p. 42)

   *Statement of the Problem:* “The problem statement describes the context for the study” (Wiersma, 1995, p. 404). The statement should be presented within a context and that context should be briefly explained. The statement forms part of the introduction

   b. **Rationale, purpose, research question(s) and significance:** These are sub-headings under chapter 1.
      i. **Rationale** – stating what will be the benefit(s) of doing a study based on your research topic and possibly highlighting whether or not a research of this nature has been undertaken
      ii. **Purpose** – re-stating your research problem in statement format which would reflect the overarching goal of your proposed research
      iii. **Research question(s)** – specific questions that will help to guide the data collection process to find the possible answer(s) to your research problem
      iv. **Significance** – state how your research will refine, revise or extend existing knowledge in the area you propose to investigate

   **Example:**

   Rationale:
   Several researchers (list at least 2 of them) have argued that the knowledge base of teachers determines the extent to which they explicitly teach comprehension strategies. However this researcher is not aware of any studies done at this particular school relating to assessing the knowledge base of grade 6 teacher on various comprehension strategies, hence the reason for this proposed investigation.

   Purpose
   The objective of this proposed study is to determine the knowledge base of grade six teachers on various comprehension strategies and to report the frequency of use of these strategies during teaching.

   Research questions
   1. are grade six teachers aware of various comprehension strategies?
   2. which of the strategies are the grade six teachers most aware of?
   3. how often do these grade six teachers utilize the strategies they mention?
Section 2 (or Chapter 2)

4. Literature Review:
   a. This is a summary analysis of at least five research based articles on your topic.
   b. This summary analysis will require drawing on your critiquing skills.
   c. Try to use primary sources to support claims that you make.
   d. Use the literature/research articles to build the case relating to your introduction

Section 3 (or Chapter 3)

5. Methodology
   a. Design – state the type of research design you intend to employ for your proposed
      research. Ensure that the design is applicable to the way in which the problem is
      stated
   b. Participants – specify details of who you will select to be a part of your research.
      State the sample size, their composition, age range and other demographic data; how
      they will be selected
   c. Instrumentation – this relates to how you will collect information for your research
      (e.g. use of questionnaires, pre/post test, interview, other). Describe each instrument
      in details.
   d. Procedure – describe in details how you intend to carry out the research (how will
      you gain entry, how you will select the participants, what you intend to do etc)
   e. Data analysis
      i. Specify the procedures you will use to analyze your data e.g. the use of
         descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviation, use of tables, graphs etc)
   f. Limitations – list the potential weaknesses of your proposed research. The limitations
      may refer to administration procedures, sample size, instrumentation
      i.

6. References
   a. References relate to ONLY the sources you have cited in your text and does not relate
      to other materials you may have read.
   b. Your listing should follow the APA guidelines
   c. The annotated bibliography is a list of references to the articles cited in your proposal.
      Each reference gives a brief descriptive and evaluative paragraph (5-7 lines, single
      spaced). The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance,
      accuracy and quality of the sources cited.

Example of an annotation:


The purpose of this study was to investigate transfer in spelling skills among a group
of high school students with spelling difficulties. A total of 259 students from five
high schools were participants. The research employed an experimental design. The
researchers found out that the group that was taught various spelling strategies
performed better than the group that only learnt one strategy.

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