

For this assignment, you will compose the Title Page, Abstract, Conclusion, and References sections and submit them with your Final Project: Research Paper Final Submission. The Title Page and Abstract sections are the first two sections of your research paper. The title page includes the title, your name, and your school and location. The abstract includes major aspects of the paper in a logical sequence. The Conclusion and References sections are the last two sections of your research paper. The conclusion restates the research question(s)/statement, along with the main points of evidence and data collected. The references page is a compilation of all references used throughout the research process.

Please submit your completed research paper as one single document in the correct order: Title Page, Abstract, Introduction, Literature Review, Participants and Setting, Data Collection, Data Analysis, Conclusion, and References. You do not need to include Milestones One and Two, in which you selected the topic and theory to base your research. Make sure that you are submitting the final paper after all revisions and edits have been completed.

The final project for this course is the creation of a qualitative research paper. The focus of your topic should be in one of the following areas: motivation in learning, student-centered learning, or effective teachers. You will then formulate a research question/statement based on your topic, and collect and analyze data in order to address the research question/statement. You will also explain your findings using one of the theories learned in the course. The purpose of this project is to provide you with an opportunity to apply one of the learning theories into the context of real classroom instruction. Data collection will take place by viewing instruction in selected videos.

The project is divided into **6 milestones**, which will be submitted at various points throughout the course to scaffold learning and ensure quality final submissions. These milestones will be submitted in **Modules 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7**.

**In this assignment you will demonstrate your mastery of the following course outcomes:**

- CO 2: Create connections between learning theories and psychological issues in education

- CO 3: Apply educational philosophies and theories to the qualitative research process
- CO 4: Select quality resources to conduct a literature review for qualitative research
- CO 5: Collect and analyze qualitative research data
- CO 6: Demonstrate an understanding of the qualitative research process

## **Prompt**

For the final project in this course, you will research a topic in the area of education with an emphasis on learning and compose a research paper. You will first choose a topic and theoretical framework to use as the basis for the research paper. The focus of your topic should be in one of the following areas: motivation in learning, student-centered learning, or effective teachers. Your research paper will be divided into the following sections: Title Page/Abstract, Introduction, Literature Review, Participants/Setting, Data Collection, Data Analysis, and Conclusion/References. Sections will be grouped to constitute milestones towards the completion of the paper with a different due date for each milestone. Your final project will be due in Module 7.

## Milestones

In **Module 1**, you will submit a Milestone One: Selecting a Topic Template Microsoft Word document. For this milestone, you will select a topic to

research and focus on for the Final Project: Research Paper.

In order to successfully complete this assignment:

1.

Select one of these three broad topics based on your interest:

- Motivation in learning
  
- Student-centered learning
  
- Effective teachers

2.

3.

Jot down questions about the general topic you selected. Continue until you have exhausted all the questions you have. Look at all the questions and determine the central or overarching question (the most important question you have). This becomes your research question or statement. The research question often begins with “how” or

“what.” In one sentence, describe what it is that you want to understand.

4.

Read all your other questions and choose 1–2 of them to use as sub-questions to help with your investigation of the central issue.

5.

Submit research questions for review and approval by completing the Milestone One Template.

**This Milestone is graded with the Milestone One Rubric document.**

Milestone Two: *Select a Theory*

Milestone One: *Select a Topic*

In **Module 3**, you will submit a 2–3 paragraph Microsoft Word document. For this milestone, you will select a theory to guide your theoretical framework and provide rationale as to why you chose that theory.

In order to successfully complete this assignment, select a theory from the ones learned in this course. Write 2–3 paragraphs explaining why this theory will best support your topic and your research question. Make sure to include:

- Your research topic and question
- A summary of your selected theory with its key components
- An explanation of why you selected this theory for your theoretical framework

**This Milestone is graded with the Milestone Two Rubric document.**

Milestone Three: *Introduction and Literature Review*

In **Module 4**, you will submit a **4-5 page Microsoft Word document**. For this milestone, you will explain your topic, provide your research question(s), and cite 1-2 sources that you have found on a topic similar to yours. You will also you will search and locate literature using library and internet resources and establish a context for your research question(s)/statement. For this Milestone, you are required to review **at least 10-12 sources**.

As you are writing the Introduction section, ask yourself:

- Do I explain my topic in a clear manner?
- Do I provide the research question?
- Do I cite at least 1-2 sources on a similar topic?

As you are writing the Literature Review section, ask yourself:

- Do I have at least 10-12 sources from peer-reviewed journal articles, books and websites?
- Does my literature review connect to my topic and to my research question by discussing other research done on this topic?
- Does my literature review follow the APA style (6th edition) formatting?

**This Milestone is graded with the Milestone Three Rubric document.**

Milestone Four: *Participants/Setting and Data Collection*

In **Module 5**, you will submit a **3-4 page Microsoft Word document**. For this milestone, you will explain who the participants are in your study and where the research is conducted. You will also you will describe data collected and what you observed in the instructional videos. The participants, setting, and data will be obtained from the same video you observed in the Module 5 Discussion: Data Collection:

1.

2<sup>nd</sup> grade Retelling and Comparing Two Stories

2.

4<sup>th</sup> grade Fractions

3.

6<sup>th</sup> grade Informational Text

4.

9<sup>th</sup> grade Biology

5.

10<sup>th</sup> grade Physical Science

Since your data is based on videos of classroom observations, your participants are students (include grade level and subject and how many

students) and the teacher (include gender and other descriptors). The setting will be the classroom and school where the study is conducted.

As you are writing the Participants/Settings section, ask yourself:

- Who are the participants in the videos I observed? What is the setting? Why is it important in a research study to discuss participants and setting?

- How can I best use the qualitative research examples as models for my writing?

As you are writing the Data Collection section, ask yourself:

- What do I observe?
- What is the teacher doing?
- What are the students doing?
- What do I notice regarding the classroom environment?
- What else do I notice?
- What do I observe happening in the classroom that can help answer my research question?

- How do my observations connect to my topic and research question?

**This Milestone is graded with the Milestone Four Rubric document.**

#### Milestone Five: *Data Analysis*

In **Module 6**, you will submit a **2-3 page Microsoft Word document**. For this milestone, you will look for themes in the data collected for Milestone Four, connect the found themes to your topic and to your research question, review the theory you selected for your framework and use it to help you explain the themes found during your observations, and review your sources from your literature review to see if they connect to your findings. When analyzing the data, review your field notes. Then follow this procedure:

- **Look for themes.** What did you see happening repeatedly? Here, rather than looking for details, look for global themes. For example: Imagine that you see two students talking while the teacher is teaching. You also see a student throw something at another and another student talk back at the teacher, and the teacher does not address these behaviors. Instead of thinking of each one as an individual theme, think globistically: ineffective classroom management as the theme. Continue looking for themes until it looks like you have exhausted all possibilities.
- **Connect the found themes to your topic and to your research question.** Look for a relationship between the themes that you are finding and your topic and research question. Ask yourself: Are these themes related to my research topic and question? If so, pursue them. If not, set them aside. They may make sense later on during the analysis. If they don't, discard them. For example: Imagine that your topic is motivation. Your research question is: How can teachers motivate reluctant readers? During your observations, you noticed that the teacher scratched her nose constantly. Although this may be a recurring theme, it is certainly not related to your research topic/question. Obviously this is an extreme example, but in any event, make sure that everything connects.

● **Review the theory you selected for your framework and use it to help you explain the themes found during your observations.** Now that you have found the themes from your observations and connected them to your research topic and research question, the next step is the “so what.” So what did you learn that can answer your research question? How can you explain what you learned through the lens of this theory? For example: Look back at the previously made-up research question of How can teachers motivate reluctant readers? If your selected theory is Self-Worth Theory (Covington & Dray, 2002), you could determine that the fact that you observed third graders reading independently and on-task for a long period of time, can be explained through this theory. Namely, learners value success and avoid failure because failure means low ability and low ability reduces self-worth. Perceived high ability is a key influencer for motivation. Since reading is valued in the classroom, and students who read are seen as having high ability, these third graders are perhaps doing something that gives

them perceived high ability and self-worth (and since the more one reads the better reader one becomes, their self-worth continues to

increase).

● **Review your sources from your literature review and see if they connect to your findings.** Do your sources help explain your

observations? If so, include those connections in your explanation. Make sure to use appropriate APA in-text citations.

As you are writing the Data Analysis section, ask yourself:

- How can my observations help answer my research question? In other words, what did I observe that explains my question?

- How do my observations connect to my topic, to my research question and to other sources I read and included in my literature review?

- How do my observations connect to the theory I selected for my theoretical framework? How can my results be explained through that

theory?

**This Milestone is graded with the Milestone Five Rubric document.**

Milestone Six: *Title Page, Abstract, Conclusion, and References*

In **Module 7**, you will complete the Title Page, Abstract, Conclusion, and References sections of your Final Project: Research Paper. **You will submit these sections with the final submission and they will be graded using the Final Project Rubric.**

The Title Page and Abstract sections will be the first two sections in your research paper. They will appear directly before your Introduction section. The Title Page is the first page of your paper. It includes a Running Head with the title following in all capital letters at the top of the page; along with the title, your name, and your school name and location in the center of the page. It also includes the page number in the upper righthand corner. The Abstract is the second page of your paper. The Abstract is typically one-paragraph (not indented) and provides an overview of the content and organization of your paper. The Abstract page also includes the title and page number at the top. To view examples of the Title Page and Abstract, along with guidelines on how to set these sections up, review pages 7 and 8 in the West Library Citation Guide: APA Style Citation.

The Conclusion and References sections will be the last two sections in your research paper. They will appear directly after the Data Analysis section. The Conclusion section typically restates the research question(s)/statement, along with the main points of evidence and data collected. In the Conclusion, you may also discuss how your research questions were answered, and suggestions for additional research. The References section will be a comprehensive list of all references used throughout the research process. For more information regarding references, you can

review the *Reference List* and *Reference Components* sections of Chapter 6: Crediting Sources, along with Chapter 7: Reference Examples in the *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*.

As you are writing the Title Page and Abstract sections, ask yourself:

- On the Title Page, did I include a Running head with the title in capital letters? Did I include the title, my name, and school and school

location in the center of the page? Does my title match the content of my research?

- For the Abstract section, did I include the major aspects of the paper in a logical sequence?

- How can I best use the qualitative research examples as models for my writing?

As you are writing the Conclusion and References sections, ask yourself:

- In the Conclusion section, how can I return to the research question that was presented in the introduction to bring the paper full circle? How

can I provide my readers with insight? How do I signal to my readers that this is the end of the paper?

- In the References section, do I have all references listed? Are they properly cited? Are they organized?

- How can I best use the qualitative research examples as models for my writing?

Specifically, the following **critical elements** must be addressed:

I.

**Title Page:** Compose a Title Page that includes title, name, and school name and location

II.

**Abstract:** Compose an Abstract section that includes major aspects of the paper in a logical sequence

III.

**Conclusion:** Compose a paragraph that brings all research facts and insights to an end

IV.

**References:** Compile a list of all references used throughout the research process

Final Submission:

In **Module 7**, you will submit a **12-16 page completed research paper**. It should be a complete, polished artifact containing **all** of the critical elements of the final product. It should reflect the incorporation of feedback gained throughout the course. This final submission will be graded using the Final Product Rubric.

**You do not need to include Milestone One (Select a Topic) and Milestone Two**

**(Select a Theory) in your final submission.**

The final submission should

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9.

be submitted in the following order:

Title Page

Abstract Introduction Literature Review Participants/Setting Data Collection Data Analysis

Conclusion References

**Deliverable Milestones**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Deliverables</b>	<b>Topic Due</b>	<b>Grading</b>
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1 Select a Topic One

2 Select a Theory Two

3 Introduction and Literature Review Four

5 Data Analysis Six

Graded separately; Milestone One Rubric

Graded separately; Milestone Two Rubric Graded separately; Milestone Three Rubric

Graded separately; Milestone Five Rubric

4	Participants/Setting and Data Collection	Five	Graded separately; Milestone Four Rubric
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6	Title Page, Abstract, Conclusion, and References	Seven	Not graded separately; Final Project Rubric
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Final Project: Research Paper Seven

Graded separately; Final Project Rubric

## Rubric

**Requirements of Submission:** Submit your Final Project: Research Paper as a 12-16 page Microsoft Word document with double spacing,

12-point Times New Roman font, and one-inch margins. Any sources should be cited in APA format.

**You do not need to resubmit Milestone One and Milestone Two for the final submission, but you should utilize any feedback regarding topic selection and theory selection to guide the formal sections of the research paper.**

**Instructor Feedback:** Students can find their feedback in the Grade Center.

	<b>Exemplary (100%)</b>	<b>Proficient (85%)</b>	<b>Needs Improvement (55%)</b>	<b>Not Evident (0%)</b>	
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<b>Critical Elements</b>					<b>Value</b>
	Meets "Proficient" and description demonstrates a	Describes background information about the topic and	Describes background information about the topic and	Does not describe background information about the topic and	

<b>Introduction : Explanation of Topic</b>	complex grasp of explanation of topic	rationale as to why it was chosen	rationale as to why it was chosen, but with minimal details and/or inaccuracies	rationale as to why it was chosen	6

<b>Introduction : Research Question/ Statement</b>	Meets “Proficient” and description demonstrates a complex grasp of research question/statem ent	Restates the research question(s)/statem ent and describes what is trying to be achieved through qualitative research	Restates the research question(s)/statem ent and describes what is trying to be achieved through qualitative	Does not restate the research question(s)/statem ent and/or does not describe what is	3
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			research but with minimal details and/or inaccuracies	trying to be achieved through qualitative research	

<p><b>Introduction : Sources</b></p>	<p>Meets “Proficient” and description demonstrates a complex grasp of citation and discussion of sources</p>	<p>Cites and discusses 1-2 sources that include research similar to topic chosen</p>	<p>Cites and discusses 1-2 sources that include research similar to topic chosen but with minimal details and/or inaccuracies</p>	<p>Does not cite and discuss 1-2 sources that include research similar to topic chosen</p>	<p>2</p>
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<p><b>Literature Review: Review of Sources</b></p>	<p>Meets “Proficient” and description demonstrates a complex grasp of review of sources</p>	<p>Reviews at least 10-12 sources from peer-reviewed journal articles, books and websites</p>	<p>Reviews sources from peer-reviewed journal articles, books and websites but does not meet the minimum number of sources (10-12) and/or inaccuracies present</p>	<p>Does not review at least 10-12 sources from peer-reviewed journal articles, books and websites</p>	<p>10</p>
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<b>Literature Review: Connection to Other Research</b>	Meets “Proficient” and description demonstrates a complex grasp of connection to other research	Connects literature review to topic and research question through discussion of other research done on topic	Connects literature review to topic and research question through discussion of other research done on topic but with minimal details and/or inaccuracies	Does not connect literature review to topic and research question through discussion of other research done on topic	3

<b>Participant s and</b>	Meets "Proficient" and description demonstrates a complex grasp of participants	Describes who was observed in the videos	Describes who was observed in the videos, but with minimal details and/or inaccuracies	Does not describe who was observed in the videos	7

<b>Setting: Participant s</b>					
	Meets “Proficient” and description demonstrates a	Describes where and when the study was conducted	Describes where and when the study was conducted but with minimal	Does not describe where and when the	

<b>Participant s and Setting: Setting</b>	complex grasp of of setting		details and/or inaccuracies	study was conducted	7
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<p><b>Data Collection: Method</b></p>	<p>Meets “Proficient” and description demonstrates a complex grasp of the method of how the data was collected</p>	<p>Accurately and thoroughly describes the method of how the data was collected</p>	<p>Provides a description of how the data was collected but with minimal details and/or inaccuracies</p>	<p>Does not accurately and thoroughly describe the method of how the data was collected</p>	<p>3</p>
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<b>Data Collection: Findings</b>	Meets "Proficient" and composition demonstrates a complex grasp of data findings	Composes a detailed description of data findings that includes all variables observed	Composes a description of data findings but with minimal details and/or inaccuracies	Does not compose a detailed description of data findings that includes all variables observed	10

<b>Data Analysis: Themes</b>	Meets "Proficient" and description demonstrates a complex grasp of themes identified in data	Describes any themes identified in data	Describes any themes identified in data but with minimal details and/or inaccuracies	Does not describe any themes identified in data	3

<b>Data Analysis:</b>	Meets “Proficient” and explanation demonstrates a complex grasp of how found themes are connected to research topic	Explains how found themes are connected to research topic	Explains how found themes are connected to research topic but with minimal details and/or inaccuracies	Does not explain how found themes are connected to research topic	3

<b>Connections to Topic</b>					
	Meets “Proficient” and explanation demonstrates a complex grasp of how found	Explains how found themes are connected to research question	Explains how found themes are connected to research question but with minimal details	Does not explain how found themes are connected to	

<b>Data Analysis: Connections to Research Question</b>	themes are connected to research question		and/or inaccuracies	research question	3
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<p><b>Data Analysis: Connections to Theory</b></p>	<p>Meets “Proficient” and explanation demonstrates a complex grasp of how found themes are connected to theory</p>	<p>Explains how found themes are connected to theory</p>	<p>Explains how found themes are connected to theory but with minimal details and/or inaccuracies</p>	<p>Does not explain how found themes are connected to theory</p>	<p>3</p>
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<b>Data Analysis: Connections to Resources</b>	Meets "Proficient" and explanation demonstrates a complex grasp of how found themes are connected to resources	Explains how found themes are connected to resources from literature review	Explains how found themes are connected to resources from literature review but with minimal details and/or inaccuracies	Does not explain how found themes are connected to resources from literature review	3

<b>Title Page</b>	Composes a Title Page with all aspects included	Composes a Title Page, but with some missing pieces and/or inaccuracies	Composes a Title Page, but with most pieces missing and/or several inaccuracies	Does not compose a Title Page with all aspects included	3



<b>Abstract</b>					4
	Composes a paragraph that	Composes a paragraph that	Composes a conclusion	Does not compose a	

<b>Conclusion</b>	brings all research facts and insights to a conclusion	brings all research facts and insights to conclusion, but with minimal details and/or inaccuracies	paragraph but with several inaccuracies and/or conclusion paragraph does not bring all research facts and insights to conclusion	paragraph that brings all research facts and insights to conclusion	4
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<b>References</b>	Compiles a list of all references used throughout the research process	Compiles a list of references used throughout the research process but with some references missing and/or inaccuracies	Compiles a list of references used throughout the research process but with many references missing and/or inaccuracies	Does not compile a list of all references used throughout the research process	3
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<b>APA Formattin g</b>	All aspects of submission follow APA style (6th edition) formatting	Most aspects of submission follow APA style (6th edition) formatting	Some aspects of submission follow APA style (6th edition) formatting	No aspects of submission follow APA style (6th edition) formatting	10
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<b>Articulation of Response</b>	Submission is free of errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, and organization and is presented in a professional and easy to read format.	Submission has no major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization.	Submission has major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that negatively impact readability and articulation of main ideas.	Submission has critical errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that prevent understanding of ideas.	10

<b>Comments</b>					