

## **Assignment 2: Incorporating the Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical perspective (sometimes referred to as the theoretical framework or foundation) can be located in the discipline-based literature. The theory is typically identified once the student has identified the problem statement and reviews the discipline-based literature for the background and significance of the problem. After examining recent studies that have addressed the problem, one overarching theory should be identified.

Based on the problem statement from Assignment 1, the student will identify a theoretical perspective that could provide the framework or anchor the study. Part I: The student will review three outstanding dissertations. For each dissertation the student will (a) identify the theoretical framework, and (b) discuss how the framework appropriately supports the research problem. Part II: After reviewing journal articles on their topic, the student will (a) identify a theoretical framework that can be used to support their research problem, (b) review three empirical studies that have employed the chosen framework, and (c) discuss how this framework aligns with the research problem in each of the chosen studies.

Use the following script for Part II (a) above:

The problem of \_\_\_ (problem) is grounded in the \_\_\_ (theory and name). This theory was originally developed by \_\_\_ (name and year) and was primarily used to study \_\_\_ (identify topics where this theory was applied including sources). The theory of \_\_\_ (theory name) indicates that \_\_\_ (discuss premise and propositions of theory in several sentences).

The paper should be approximately 3-5 pages in length and adhere to APA style. Please see the next page for the grading rubric.

**Assignment 2: Identifying the Theoretical Framework (15 points)**  
**Grading Rubric**

<b>Element</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>Partially Met</b>	<b>Not Met</b>
<b>Dissertations</b> (3 points)	The student correctly identified the theoretical framework from the three dissertations, which were appropriate.	The student identified the theoretical framework from at least two dissertations.	The student did not correctly identify the theoretical framework or there were less than 2 dissertations reviewed.
<b>Discussion of Theoretical Framework for Dissertations</b> (3 points)	An appropriate discussion of how the framework supports the research problem for each of the three dissertations is included.	A sufficient discussion for how the framework supports the research problem for at least two dissertations is included.	The student failed to include a discussion of how the framework supports the research problem, the discussion was not appropriate, or less than two dissertations were included.
<b>Theoretical Framework</b> (4 points)	An appropriate theoretical or conceptual framework is included and discussed clearly.	An appropriate theoretical or conceptual framework seems to be provided; however, there are important gaps or ambiguity concerning some elements of the theoretical framework.	A theoretical or conceptual framework is not included or is not interpretable.
<b>Review of Empirical Studies</b> (4 points)	An appropriate discussion of how the framework supports the research problem for each of the three research articles is included.	A sufficient discussion for how the framework supports the research problem for at least two research articles is included.	The student failed to include a discussion of how the framework supports the research problem, the discussion was not appropriate, or less than two research articles were included.
<b>APA Style</b> (1 points)	Citations are included and written in correct APA style.	Citations are included. There are some minor APA style errors.	Citations are not included and/or there are numerous APA style errors.