Task 2

BEP2

Student Name

Date

A Written Project Presented to the Faculty of the Teachers College

of Western Governors University

**Research Topic**

Discuss the research topic here; introduce it.

**Research Problem**

In this section you will describe the educational issue or problem within your research topic, the broad topic area. Keep in mind that quantitative research problems tend to emphasize the need to explain, predict, or describe something; and in contrast qualitative research problems tend to focus on exploring a process, an event, or a phenomenon, and mixed research is based on both or a mixture of quantitative and qualitative.

You might want to start with the following stem: There is a problem in \_\_\_. Despite \_\_ (something that should be happening) \_\_ is occurring.  This problem has negatively impacted \_\_\_ (victims of the problem) because \_\_\_.  A possible cause of this problem is \_\_\_\_.  Perhaps a study which investigates \_\_\_ by \_\_\_ (methodology) could remedy the situation.

**Purpose Statement**

You should discuss the intent or objective of the study under this heading; this information should help to orient your reader to your proposal. You may want to identify the specific type of relationship being investigated and the variables, and/or you may want to focus on the phenomenon being explored.

**Research Question(s)**

Develop two research questions that are appropriate to at least **one** of the major research approaches (i.e., quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods, or action). This is a statement of the specific question(s) you seek to answer via empirical research that focuses directly on and addresses your purpose statement. Despite the approach of your question(s) it should be:

•  researchable (i.e., you can collect and analyze data to answer it)

•  directly focuses on and addresses the research problem statement

1. Research Question 1.
2. Research Question 2.

**Hypothesis**

            If one or both of your research questions are quantitative, state your specific, measureable hypothesis (i.e., your prediction of the relationship that exists among the variables being investigated) for each question.  The hypothesis is a prediction of the outcome of the study. If your research question(s) is purely qualitative, then provide a simple and brief explanation of why a hypothesis is not needed for each research question.

1.     Hypothesis or justification for no hypothesis for Research Question 1.

2.     Hypothesis or justification for no hypothesis for Research Question 2.

**Justification of Research Approach**

Justify which major research approach (i.e,. quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods or action research) you would recommend using to answer each research question.

**Literature Review**

In this section (10-12 pages), develop a narrative literature review on at least **15** scholarly sources, at least **10** of which are peer-reviewed journal articles. Your literature review should include relevant sources and should flow logically from your broad topic to your specific research questions and include in-text APA citations. You may build on your annotated bibliography from Task 1, however be certain to note the differences in an annotated bibliography and a literature review. These two documents are completely different! Please see Appendix A for a summary of the differences. See the following two job aids before you write the lit review. The first is a PDF. The second is a short video:

* <https://docs.google.com/open?id=0B9bRCqMHDXgPYXhEZFlEeDJOTkE>
* <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/tutorials/lit-review/>

You will want to first introduce your research topic and then move to your research problem. Your literature review should be divided into the themes that you have synthesized from your study of the literature. These themes will be headings in your literature review.

**Heading**

Your synthesis of your first theme in your search of the literature.

**Heading**

Your synthesis of second theme in your search of the literature. You will likely have more than two headings, so just keep adding them.

References

You should provide a reference list that lists all or your references in APA format. For example:

Congressional Budget Office. (2008). Effects of gasoline prices on driving behavior and vehicle markets: A CBO study (CBO Publication No. 2883). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. Retrieved from http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/88xx/doc8893/01-14-GasolinePrices.pdf

Deming, D., & Dynarski, S. (2008). The lengthening of childhood (NBER Working Paper 14124). Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research. Retrieved July 21, 2008, from <http://www.nber.org/papers/w14124>

**Appendix A**

PLEASE NOTE: An appendix is not required for this task. It is provided for informational purposes only.

Difference between an APA Literature Review and an Annotated Bibliography

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **APA Literature Review** | **Annotated Bibliography** |
| Organized around ideas or themes | Organized around the sources themselves |
| The author reads widely but selectively in the  topic area and considers what themes or issues connect the sources together. Do they present one  or different solutions? Is there an aspect of the  field that is missing? How well do they present  the material and do they portray it according to an  appropriate theory? Do they reveal a trend in the  field or a raging debate? Pick three or more of these  themes to focus the organization of your review. | The author simply lists sources and goes into detail  about each one of them, one at a time. This list of  works or resources is accompanied by annotations.  The annotations are usually short descriptions and a  brief critical assessment of each work. |
| Has an organizational pattern according to sections  and combines both summary and synthesis. A summary is a recap of the important information of  the source, but a synthesis is a re-organization, or a  reshuffling, of that information. It might give a new  interpretation of old material or combine new with  old interpretations. | Is a list of citations and descriptions, and is  organized alphabetically according to sources.  While annotated bibliographies are generally not  acceptable as literature reviews, they are valuable  instruments to literature reviews. Indeed, the  best literature reviews will be based on good,  comprehensive annotated bibliographies. |
| Makes a case for further investigation and  research, highlighting gaps in knowledge and  asking questions that need to be answered for the  betterment of the discipline; as such, its contents  are selected to make the case.  review usually has a thesis or statement of purpose,  stated or implied, at its core  In short, a literature | Is a list of what's available in a given field,  accompanied by a short description. While it  may feature a critical component, the criticism is  generally directed at the quality of the work, rather  than at its value in answering a particular question  or buttressing an argument |
| Refers to authors and studies. For example:  According to Meyers (2009), student scores  increased in fifth grade math courses after the  intervention. | Refers to names of articles. For example:  The next article I reviewed was called Who Moved  My Cheese? |

<http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/literature_review.html>

<http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/litreviews/whatis.html>