A Dissertation Proposal

Submitted to the
Faculty of Argosy University, Phoenix Campus
in Partial Fulfillment of
the Requirements for the Degree of
Doctor of Education

By

Your Full Name

Argosy University

Month, Year

Dissertation Committee Approval:

__________________________________________________________________
Joe Smith, Ed.D., Chair

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__________________________________________________________________
John Doe, Ed.D., Program Chair
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(Note: In the Proposal, the signature and title pages are “counted” but not “numbered.”)
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(Note: Use a Table of Appendices if the Proposal includes more than 4 Appendices. If a Table of Appendices is used, then REFERENCES would be the last entry.)
CHAPTER ONE: THE PROBLEM

The introduction and problem background present the global problem that has led you to the specific purpose of your study.

Level One Headings Are Bold and Centered

Chapter one should describe the nature and purpose of the study, present the guiding research question(s), provide the definitions of terms, identify the limitations and delimitations, and explain the significance of and justification for conducting the study.

Level Two Subheadings are Bold and Flush Left

The reader should be satisfied after reading The Problem section that (a) a case is made for the existence of a problem or appropriateness of the topic and it is clearly delineated, and (b) the problem or topic has intellectual merit worthy of dissertation research. A framework for writing a solid introduction, regardless of the approach used, should include these nine key components:

1. some introductory material to present the topic;
2. the research problem or topic;
3. the purpose of the study;
4. the research question;
5. the research hypothesis or hypotheses (if appropriate);
6. the definitions of terms;
7. the limitations and delimitations of the study;
8. the anticipated significance of the study
CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

The foundation of the dissertation begins with a review of the relevant literature. The relevant theories and the methodological and measurement considerations will be found in the literature. The literature review is extensive but not necessarily exhaustive and should provide the foundation to frame the argument explaining why the study is necessary and relevant.

The sources for the literature review include government documents, appropriate databases, books, professional journals, previous research on the topic, dissertations, and other information about previous investigations and existing theories that form the rationale for the current undertaking. Information must be evaluated and interpreted, properly referenced and presented to build an argument for the importance of the research and the appropriateness of the methods used in the dissertation to add new and original information to the existing knowledge on the subject being explored.

One of the deviations of Argosy University from standard APA format is the use of single spacing in some areas, including block quotes. Per the Argosy University Guide to the Doctoral Dissertation Research Process (2011):

Block quotations, table titles, figure captions, notes to the tables and figures, and references in the reference list should be single-spaced with an extra space dividing these individual items from text or entries above and below them. All other parts of the doctoral dissertation research should be double-spaced. (p. 25)

Refer to the complete list of AU deviations from APA style within the dissertation guide.

After reading the Review of the Literature chapter, the committee should be confident that:

- the essential literature supports the existence of the problem;
the literature review presents fully what is already known concerning the research questions or hypotheses;

the pattern of inquiry as presented in the literature is related to the topic of the Proposal;

the proposed methodological directions reflect the patterns in the literature. In addition, the literature must be extensive and relevant;

it includes contrary or controversial opinions fairly and objectively;

it includes past studies, theory, methodology and measurement issues;

it is well organized and written to provide a framework for the proposed study;

it is analytical, and not just a presentation of what has been done by others;

it provides an historical context for the current investigation;

it discusses how the investigation fills a void in the literature. (p. 20)

Subsequent to the body of the literature review, chapter two usually closes with a summary, or recapitulation of the literature, where study results are presented in aggregate form. A sentence or paragraph to lead into Chapter Three ends the chapter.

*Note: Each new chapter begins on a new page, even if blank space exists on the last page of the previous chapter.*
CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

In this chapter, the design, procedures, and analysis plan for carrying out the purpose of the study are presented. When it is completed, this chapter will include all aspects of the methodology, both proposed and what actually occurred during the course of the research, in replicable detail. Prior to the proposal defense, discussion of what will be undertaken in the research should be written in future tense. Subsequent to completion of the research, these same items will be changed, describing them as having been done.

The methodology chapter begins with a brief restatement of the nature and purpose of the study. This includes a description of the methodology employed (e.g. quantitative, qualitative, action) and why it was chosen to address the research’s topic or problem statement. Although there will be different sections and headings for studies of varying approaches, the most common sections are (a) an introduction, (b) a description of the research design, (c) the population and sampling procedures, (d) access and permission information, (e) assumptions or limitations, (f) data collection, (g) instrumentation, (h) procedures, (i) data analysis, and (j) interpretation (Argosy University, 2011, pp. 20-22). Each of these sections would be described fully in Chapter Three.
REFERENCES


*Note:* This page should be titled “REFERENCES” (in bold). It should not be titled “Works Cited” or “Bibliography” or “List of References” Please note that one of the deviations of AUO from standard APA is the use of single spacing for the reference list.
APPENDICES
APPENDIX A

Type Appendix A Title Here
APPENDIX A

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Precede the content of each appendix with a title page. Use ALL CAPS and bold for the appendix and identifying number, center the level one title below it, also in bold.
The page number on the title page should correspond to the entry in the Table of Contents. Begin typing the Appendix title page eight spaces below the top margin (line 10). Number the pages in the appendices consecutively.
APPENDIX B

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Information for appendix B appears here.