

Problem Explication Worksheet

Working Title

In 15 words or fewer, create a working title for your proposed investigation.

Relevant Expertise and Experience

Briefly describe how your experience and expertise (education, career, etc.) support the selected research topic/problem.

Research Problem

1. **What:** In no more than two sentences, what is the problem that the research will address? Remember, a problem is, essentially, something that is 'going wrong'.
Who: List three current, peer-reviewed references that support the presence of that problem and *briefly describe the nature of that support*.
2. **How, Where, and When:** Again, in no more than two sentences, describe the impact of the problem. How are people or researchers' understanding negatively impacted by the problem? When and where is the problem evident?
Who: List three current, peer-reviewed references that support the impact of the problem that the research proposes addressing and briefly describe the nature of that support.
3. **Why:** In no more than two sentences, identify the conceptual basis for the problem. That is, what does the literature outline as the cause of the problem?
Who: List three current, peer-reviewed references that support the conceptual basis of the problem and briefly describe the nature of that support.

Initial Concept for Solving the Problem

Given your proposed research problem, what type of study do you propose conducting? Remember, your study constitutes the contribution you will make toward addressing that problem. In specific:

1. What type of study would you conduct - experimental, design and development, descriptive, etc.
2. What research questions would you attempt to answer in the study?
3. What data would you need to answer those research questions? It is helpful to take a look at similar research studies that you find in the literature. Review how they addressed similar problems including the methods/data sources they used and why.

References

Include a complete list of references for all works cited within the paper.