The Introduction ~ Chapter 1

__NOTE:__ Not intended to be all-encompassing, but a general overview of the Introduction.

Setting the stage for your research starts with a very strong Introduction. This chapter essentially answers the question, "Why" the study should be done. Firstly, consider writing chapter one, after you've written chapters two and three. Typical flow of chapter one is as follows:

Engage the reader. This is essentially a sales pitch. You need to pull the reader in from the start as to the importance of your topic. A popular strategy includes the use statistics. As an example statement - *From 1980 to 2009, the number of school-age children (5-17 years old) in the United States speaking a language other than English at home increased from 4.7 to 11.2 million.* Also consider a philosophical view (e.g., as college students, we long for graduation and the privileges that come with a college degree). Finally, consider using dramatic stories from familiar events

Build a rationale for why this study should be done. Once you've engaged the reader that the problem is of some magnitude or importance, you need to offer facts and evidence to convince the reader that your study is appropriate and important. Cite some of your most important and significant research. This is not a complete summary, (which comes in chapter 2), but a highlight of some of the most important investigations.

Highlight potential implications for the study. Think about practical and theoretical implications. How will your research aid individuals in the field (practical implications)? How will your research be of value to other researchers (theoretical implications)?

State the purpose of the study. As an example - *The purpose of the present study is to investigate the influence of a child's academic self-concept on academic achievement.*

List the hypotheses and research questions. It is sometimes beneficial to use the word "hypotheses" (or hypothesis) when stating your hypotheses. This makes is easy for the reader to find your hypotheses within your manuscript. E.g., It is hypothesized that students with higher academic self-concept will have higher GPAs than students with lower academic self-concept.

Provide a list of definitions, parameters, strengths, limitations, and assumptions. While you need to state the limitations, you also should state the strengths. FAU has a significant strengths such as student diversity that should be highlighted and promoted.

Contact Michael A. DeDonno Ph.D. to review this document or discuss your research interests. Florida Atlantic University, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton, FL. 33431, mdedonno@health.fau.edu

References & Further Readings

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