

Eastern Kentucky University

Encompass

SWK 340: Social Work Research Methods OER Collection

2021

SWK 340: Exercise 1. Writing the Research Question, Hypothesis and Problem Statement

Erin Stevenson

Follow this and additional works at: https://encompass.eku.edu/oer_swk340

 Part of the [Social Work Commons](#)

SWK 340 Exercise 1: Writing the Problem Statement, Research Question, and Hypothesis

Purpose: This goal of this assignment is to give you an opportunity to describe the problem you want to study and then write a research question and hypothesis that you have developed for your proposal. Your problem statement should explain why your question is feasible and relevant to social work. You will get feedback from your instructor on this exercise that will help as you further develop the research proposal.

Instructions: For Exercise 1, you will write out the guiding elements of your research proposal following these steps.

1. Problem Statement:

- a. Write a solid paragraph that states the problem your research plans to address.
- b. Describe why the problem is socially relevant and scientifically relevant. Be specific.
- c. You should include at least 2 in-text citations to reflect research supporting your ideas.

2. Research Question:

- a. Describe your current research question.
- b. State your independent variable(s) and your dependent variable(s). Remember the independent variable (IV) is what you think might be causing change in or impacting the dependent variable (DV).
- c. State what population is the primary focus of the research question.

3. Hypothesis:

- a. State what you think you will discover after collecting research data.
- b. Start your sentence with the phrase: The hypothesis is.....

4. Feasibility:

- a. Write a paragraph describing how you know that your question is feasible.
- b. Give an example of how you think you might gather data to answer the question. Is there an existing dataset you could analyze or a group of people or organization in our region that you could survey or interview to gather data to answer your question? Be specific.

Submit your paper through the assignment link on Blackboard by the due date listed in the course schedule. Include a references page and [title page following APA format for student papers](#). For example, page 1 will be your title page for Exercise 1. Pages 2-3 will be your response to the questions above using the numbering and headings provided (delete the instructions after each heading though and just put your responses). The last page will be your References (requires at a minimum two sources).

HINT: Refer back to the handouts on writing research questions and problem statements provided on Blackboard. There is also information in our textbook in chapters 2, 3 and 4 that might be helpful.