

McNair Scholars Summer Research Institute
Outline for Non-Empirical Research Paper: An Extended Analysis of the Literature

Explanations

1. By working with mentors during the academic year, participants are encouraged to prepare this paper in advance of the Summer Research Institute so the summer can be focused on implementing the proposed research.
2. Participants who were granted permission in advance of the Institute to conduct non-empirical projects must use this form *as a guide*. The outline is designed specifically for a deeper, more extended analysis of empirical and other data *in the literature*. The final scholarly paper will be a combination of what *was* done to prepare the paper and what *will be* done during an upcoming traditional empirical research study during academic year and next summer. In a sense, then, this scholarly paper will be a combination of analysis of the literature and a research proposal.
3. The paper must be double-spaced and must conform to APA Manual, latest edition.
4. The content items are very similar to how you will be expected to organize your work in graduate school and for doctoral study. However, the actual content will be expanded upon significantly at the graduate and doctoral level. But for McNair purposes, your content will be cogent summaries.
5. This document is just a sample. The final identification of sections, which may exceed the contents herein, depends on the nature of the research and analysis and discussions with mentor. The final “look and feel” of your paper will reflect guidance from your mentor.
6. The page numbers are approximate and are intended to encourage successful completion of the paper during the Summer Research Institute.

OVER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract (300 words)

no page number

Chapter I -- Introduction (approximately 5 pages)

Problem Statement

Purpose of Proposed Research and Proposed Research Questions

Significance of the Topic

Summary of Analytic¹ Framework for the Proposed Study

Delimitations of the Proposed Study

Definitions

Summary and Organization of Remaining Chapters

Chapter II – Analysis and Discussion of the Literature and Presentation of Analytic Framework (approximately 5 pages)

Note: The specific headings for this section will emerge as the chapter is being developed.

Topic 1

Topic 2

Topic 3

Strengths, Limitations and Implications of the Literature²

Presentation and Discussion of the Analytic³ Framework

Chapter III – Research Design and Methodology (approximately 5 pages)

Purpose of Proposed Research and Proposed Research Questions

Literature Sources

Methods for Analyzing the Literature

Proposed Role of the Researcher

Proposed Data Collection Strategies and Data Sources

Proposed Data Analysis Strategies

Proposed Strategies for Minimizing Bias and Error

Proposed Ethical Considerations

Anticipated Limitations of Future Research

Chapter IV – Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations for Future Research (approximately 5 pages)

Findings from the Literature Related to the Proposed Research Questions

Conclusions Based on Analysis of the Literature

Recommendations for Future Research

References (approximately 25 sources⁴)

Appendices

Appendix A: Informed Consent

Appendix B: Research Summary

Appendix C: Interview Guide

¹ Depending on your study, you may use “Theoretical Framework” or “Conceptual Framework” as appropriate.

² Scholars may choose to have this section at the end of each section of the literature rather than at end of chapter.

³ Use the same term used in Chapter 1

⁴ Sources include refereed journals, books, secondary sources (magazines, newspapers, reports), documentary data and electronic sources (credible websites). Wikipedia and similar sites are not acceptable sources.