



The Empirical Study Assignment Sheet



Writing Center Hours:

8:30 AM – 8:30 PM M–Th, 8:30 AM– 4:30 PM F

Email: okc.tutoring@okstate.edu

Phone: 405-945-3278

Assignment: Part One

For part one of the essay, you will write a literature review of approximately 800-1000 words (probably around 4-6 paragraphs). **You will need to cite at least FIVE sources, including at least THREE scholarly sources. Ideally, your literature review will use ALL scholarly sources; there should be clear and justifiable reason for using any non-scholarly sources in this essay.**

The point of a literature review is to establish key background on a topic and then make an argument about what aspects of the topic have not yet been sufficiently studied or are not yet well understood. **The literature review you write for Essay 3 will be edited down as needed and incorporated as part of Essay 4.**

Choosing a Topic & Getting Started

Your topic needs to be something that can be studied empirically (so you can conduct your own study over it for Essay 4), but even with that limitation, there are many different types of topics and research questions that you can use. Remember, you don't have to know exactly what kind of study you're going to do for Essay 4 yet, as long as you have a general topic; the details will evolve as you work on this essay. Focus on finding a topic that you find interesting and fun! Refer to the Research Project Planning video for tips.

Final drafts will be graded according to the following rubric:

*Essays that bear no resemblance to the assigned genre will receive a zero.

****Essays with severe errors in grammar** – such as frequent run-on sentences, sentence fragments, or subject-verb agreement errors – will receive a zero with the option for the writer to make corrections and resubmit for partial credit; details and a deadline for re-submission will be posted in the feedback on the essay.

*****Essays with errors in documentation** that result in violations of the Academic Honesty Policy will be dealt with according to that policy as described in the syllabus.



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Criterion	Points
The essay is clearly a literature review*. It identifies important themes, trends, and subtopics in the scholarly literature on a topic. It establishes the need for specific research in a specific area and concludes by identifying the empirical research question that will be explored in Essay 4.	/40
The essay appropriately incorporates quotations, summaries, and/or paraphrases of at least 5 relevant and credible sources, including at least 3 scholarly sources. Source material is synthesized appropriately so that the essay does NOT read as a list of summaries of sources.	/40
The essay is organized appropriately for a literature review, with an effective introduction and forecasting statement, strong topic sentences for body paragraphs, cohesive body paragraphs, and an effective conclusion.	/30
The essay is written in appropriately academic style.	/30
The author shows attention to detail, avoiding careless mistakes in grammar** or documentation***.	/20
You may earn bonus points for the following: -Creative and original topic selection -Excellent uses of rhetorical devices -A particularly strong title -Any other thing that's not required but is impressive (Total points for essay not to exceed 160)	/0
Total	/160



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Assignment: Part Two

The second part of the essay will report your findings from your own primary research. You should have identified an empirical research question you could pursue in part one. If you're struggling to identify a clear question, Ch. 12 can help you!

For the fourth essay, you will:

1. Edit down your Essay 3 to serve as the introduction section/literature review of your research report
2. Add the necessary information to create a research report of approximately 1250-1500 words.
3. You will need to cite at least SIX sources total, including at least THREE scholarly sources and at least ONE primary source.

Sources

For this essay, most of your sources will be re-used from Essay 3. Your new source(s) will most likely be your primary source(s).

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Criterion	points
The essay includes all of the required elements of a scientific research report*.	/50
The essay appropriately and effectively integrates quotations, summaries, and/or paraphrases of at least 6 relevant and credible sources, including at least 3 scholarly sources and at least 1 primary source.	/40
The essay is organized effectively.	/40
The essay is written in appropriately academic style.	/40
The author shows attention to detail, avoiding careless mistakes in grammar** or documentation***.	/40
You may earn bonus points for the following: -Creative and original topic selection -Excellent uses of rhetorical devices -A particularly strong title -Any other thing that's not required but is impressive (Total points for essay not to exceed 210)	/0
Total	/210