# Track 1 Final Assignment Template

1.1 Research Topic (2 paragraphs)

FIRST PARAGRAPH: Describe the specific topic to be studied.

SECOND PARAGRAPH: Describe the significance of this topic to your program/field (e.g., Psychology, Counseling, Business, Technology, Public Service Leadership, Education, etc.) AND your specialization within your program.

The Research Topic should be correctly formed:

* The Research Topic should be appropriate for the specialization.
* The Research Topic should use appropriate language for key concepts/phenomena.
* The target population should be named
* The concepts should be appropriately focused.

## Use current (within 5-7 years), scholarly, PRIMARY resources to support statements.

Use APA style in citing all resources.

1.2 Research Problem (1 Paragraph)

Write a brief statement that fully describes the problem being addressed.

In simplified terms, the research problem should take this form:

“The research literature on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ indicates that we know \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, we know \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but we do not know \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

The Research Problem should be correctly stated:

* Existing literature and key findings should be summarized
* Gaps or problems in the existing literature should be clearly formulated
* The Research Problem should be explicitly stated, not implied.

## Use current (within 5-7 years), scholarly, PRIMARY resources to support statements.

Use APA style in citing all resources.

## 2.1 Research Problem Background (3 paragraphs)

## Provide a brief SUMMARY of your review of the research literature on the topic. This should include citations from at least 10 articles, but should indicate that you have performed a review of the literature on the topic. This should be demonstrated by providing a statement about the body of existing literature on the topic, then, summarizing recent research findings on the topic, highlighting the findings that are most relevant to your proposed study, demonstrating how your proposed research could add to the existing literature on the topic. Be sure to provide appropriate in text citations and include references in the reference section.

**Note:** The Research Plan requires a minimum of 75 articles. This is a Track 3 expectation. For Track 1, you only need 10. You will continue to build your literature review after you leave Track 1.

## Use current (within 5-7 years), scholarly, PRIMARY resources to support statements.

Use APA style in citing all resources.

## Note: This will not be your full dissertation literature review but an initial foundation. You will continue to add to your literature review throughout your dissertation process.

**3.1 Theoretical Foundations**

Briefly describe the primary theoretical basis for the study. Describe the major theory (or theories) that will serve as the lens through which you will view the research problem and research questions and provide any corresponding citations.

**Note:** The theoretical foundation should be a theory from your discipline that supports your topic. In doing so, certain constructs (explanatory ideas) from that theory would be used to support the research focus.

## Use current (within 5-7 years), scholarly, PRIMARY resources to support statements.

Use APA style in citing all resources.

**3.2 Contributions to Theory**

Describe how your study will contribute to theory in your field by meeting one or more of these four criteria.

1. The study should generate new theory.

1. The study should refine or add to an existing theory.
2. The study should test to confirm or refute a theory.
3. The study should expand theory by telling us something new about application or processes

## Use current (within 5-7 years), scholarly, PRIMARY resources to support statements.

Use APA style in citing all resources.

**3.3 Theoretical Implications**

Describe the theoretical implications you believe your study could have for your field AND your specialization area. This will be the theoretical framework(s) to be used in conceptualizing the study and analyzing the data.

## Use current (within 5-7 years), scholarly, PRIMARY resources to support statements.

Use APA style in citing all resources.

**3.4 Practical Implications**

Please describe the specific practical implications that may result from this research that can be used by any or all of the following stakeholders: the population being studied, professionals for whom this topic pertains, and/or the wider community itself.

## Use current (within 5-7 years), scholarly, PRIMARY resources to support statements.

Use APA style in citing all resources.

**4.3 Ethical Considerations**

Describe any ethical considerations given the sample, population, and/or topic.

Is the proposed population or research topic greater than minimal risk?

* If yes, has the researcher had a consultation with the IRB consultant?
* If yes, please include the IRB’s summarize the IRBs consultant’s response.

## Use current (within 5-7 years), scholarly, PRIMARY resources to support statements.

Use APA style in citing all resources.

**6. References**

Provide a reference list for all of the articles cited in this assignment, following APA 6th edition formatting (see chapter 7 of the Publication Manual for examples). Use current (within 5-7 years), scholarly, PRIMARY resources to support statements.

Review the Track 1 Final Assignment Scoring Guide to ensure you meet all grading criteria. Review the assignment due date information provided in both the Syllabus and the Faculty Expectations discussion to effectively plan your time.