Methods

Fall 2019

**How To: The Cover Page & Introduction**

Due: Thursday, November 7th, 2019

**The Cover Page**

Title of your research project placed about 1/4 down the page and centered in bold

Your names, Department of Sociology, Adams State University, Alamosa, CO

Then the date

This research project is submitted in the Sociological Research Methods class in partial fulfillment of the requirement of the Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology at Adams State University. Comes at the bottom

Next page is an example.

**Guns and the American Public …:**

**An Investigation of the General Social Survey Data of 2016**

Names of Student

Department of Sociology

Adams State University, Alamosa, CO

December 2019

This research project is submitted in the Sociological Research Methods class in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology at

Adams State University.

**Writing Your Introduction**

As you begin writing your Introduction, remember that the reader knows nothing about your research project. You need to ease your reader into your project, by introducing your project broadly.

Then you need to let the reader know how your project is related to the existing sociological literature, so you need to provide a broad review of the main points of your Literature Review. This way the reader knows how your project fits into sociology.

From there, you need to state what your actual project is and what secondary data you use for the project. You should give a very general overview of what the data source is so that the reader knows a little about the data you are using.

Be sure to include the year of the secondary data you are using.

From there, you should state the main research question that is driving your project, and include your hypotheses (remember: the correct spelling is “one hypothesis,” “two hypotheses”). Then you should write about why your research project is important.

1. Start broadly with the general topic your research centers on

For example: Recent research on …. demonstrates that …

1. Then focus in a bit more on the specifics of this broad topic; perhaps there is a controversy, perhaps there are conflicting findings, or perhaps the findings differ from two different samples – give the reader more information about this broad topic.
2. You should draw on the main points of your literature review for this area of more detail and focus.
3. Then move to the specifics of your study.

State that you will be analyzing a representative sample of data from the General Social Survey, include the date or Monitoring the Future and the date or whatever is your source of secondary data. Explain who collects this data and explain how many are in your particular study/sample?

1. Then state your main research question, or your focus or your hypothesis.

For example: My study investigates the prevalence of …. I will also

determine the predominant factors that contribute to ….

For example: I hypothesize that ….

For example: I am operating from a theoretical framework of …. and I intend to ….

1. Then explain to the reader why your study is important.

For example: My study will contribute to a better understanding of….. among ….

**Transitional Paragraphs and Sentences**

1. Paragraph (or map) needed at the end of the Introduction:

The next section of this report outlines the literature. Following the Literature Review, the Methods section details the methodology of my research. I then report my findings and conclude my paper with directions for future research.

2. Sentence at end of Literature Review

The next section details the methods I used for my study.

3. Sentence at end of Methods section

The next section outlines the findings of my research.

4. Sentence at the end of the Findings section.

The next section concludes my paper.

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**Rubric: Cover Page and Introduction: 20 points**

## DUE: Thursday, November 7th, 2019 in class

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Points \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Cover Page** (1 point each)

\_\_\_\_\_ Provided a descriptive title for your research project

\_\_\_\_\_ Provided information about you, the class, the university and the date

\_\_\_\_\_ Provided statement that this project is in partial fulfillment of the requirements of a degree

**Introduction** (2 points each)

\_\_\_\_\_ Introduced your research clearly so that someone who knows ABSOLUTELY nothing about it could follow you; Introduced the topic/research from a broad perspective

\_\_\_\_\_ Then moved to what your particular research project will focus on

\_\_\_\_\_ Provided brief review of the main points of your Literature Review with citations

\_\_\_\_\_ Provided information about the data you are using with a brief description of where it comes from

\_\_\_\_\_ Provided a rationale for studying this particular question; explained why this is an important research question

\_\_\_\_\_ Clearly stated the overall research question that is driving your project toward the end of the Introduction

\_\_\_\_\_ Provided the reader a “map” to the remaining parts of the paper in the last paragraph of your Introduction which lets your readers know where they are going

**Format** (1 point each)

\_\_\_\_\_ Titled the section “Introduction”

\_\_\_\_\_ Submitted graded Literature Review with Rubric

\_\_\_\_\_ Stapled correct rubric to this section Cover Page and Introduction

Comments: