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**Deliverable 2 Template. Topic 1  
Framework for defining and analyzing a research topic**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title** |  |
| **1.2 Topic /  Research question** | **Topic / Research questions / foreshadowing questions** (aspects of the topic)  *Can include hypotheses; for each give reasons for your belief that the hypothesis is plausibl*e.  ► |
| **1.3 Source of topic**  (related to Significance) | **How did you come upon this topic? What prompted your interest in the topic?**  ► |
| **3.1 Relevant theories** | **Theories that might be helpful in studying the topic**  ► |
| **3.2 Major variables** | **Major variables.** *Just a heading, enter variables in the appropriate rows below.* |
| **Descriptive variables** *For descriptive studies* | **Important characteristics for describing a case**.  ► |
| **Independent variables** *For explanatory studies* | **Independent variables (causal factors)**  ► |
| **Dependent variables** *For explanatory studies* | **Dependent variables (effects)**  ► |
| **Other variables** *For explanatory studies* | **Other variables**  *Mediating variables, control variables, variables not in a causal relationship*  ► |
| **4 Methods** | **Methods** *Very brief*  ► |
| **1.5 Can be answered by research?** | **Can be answered by research? How? Or why not?**  *Can outcomes be measured?*  *Do outcomes appear within the time frame of the study? Or are there "sleeper outcomes" that take a long time to appear?*  *Can factors other than those being investigated be ruled out or controlled?*  *Can the data needed be collected?*  ► |
| **1.6 Impact / significance** *(not to be confused with statistical significance)* | **Why do this study?** *What are its expected contributions to the general knowledge base of the topic's discipline and beyond and/or to the knowledge about a specific case?  How important are these contributions? How can they be used to improve practice? Why do you care? Why will other people care?  Why should a funding agency give you money?*  ► |
| **1.6.1 Theoretical contributions** | **Theoretical significance**  *Changing belief in existing theories. Suggesting modifications. Suggesting new theories. Basis for gaining more knowledge, relationship to other results, basis for generalization.*  ► |
| **1.6.2 Practical contributions** | **Practical significance.**  ► |
| **1.6.3 Importance for a specific decision** | **For a specific design question or decision on a specific action,  discuss the importance of getting an answer to the research question and other knowledge gained from the study *Here optional*** *and very brief (see the examples). Elaborated in the Research Proposal.*  ► |

**Deliverable 2 Template. Topic 2  
Framework for defining and analyzing a research topic**

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| **Title** |  |
| **1.2 Topic /  Research question** | **Topic / Research questions / foreshadowing questions** (aspects of the topic)  *Can include hypotheses; for each give reasons for your belief that the hypothesis is plausibl*e.  ► |
| **1.3 Source of topic**  (related to Significance) | **How did you come upon this topic? What prompted your interest in the topic?**  ► |
| **3.1 Relevant theories** | **Theories that might be helpful in studying the topic**  ► |
| **3.2 Major variables** | **Major variables.** *Just a heading, enter variables in the appropriate rows below.* |
| **Descriptive variables** *For descriptive studies* | **Important characteristics for describing a case**.  ► |
| **Independent variables** *For explanatory studies* | **Independent variables (causal factors)**  ► |
| **Dependent variables** *For explanatory studies* | **Dependent variables (effects)**  ► |
| **Other variables** *For explanatory studies* | **Other variables**  *Mediating variables, control variables, variables not in a causal relationship*  ► |
| **4 Methods** | **Methods** *Very brief*  ► |
| **1.5 Can be answered by research?** | **Can be answered by research? How? Or why not?**  *Can outcomes be measured?*  *Do outcomes appear within the time frame of the study? Or are there "sleeper outcomes" that take a long time to appear?*  *Can factors other than those being investigated be ruled out or controlled?*  *Can the data needed be collected?*  ► |
| **1.6 Impact / significance** *(not to be confused with statistical significance)* | **Why do this study?** *What are its expected contributions to the general knowledge base of the topic's discipline and beyond and/or to the knowledge about a specific case?  How important are these contributions? How can they be used to improve practice? Why do you care? Why will other people care?  Why should a funding agency give you money?*  ► |
| **1.6.1 Theoretical contributions** | **Theoretical significance**  *Changing belief in existing theories. Suggesting modifications. Suggesting new theories. Basis for gaining more knowledge, relationship to other results, basis for generalization.*  ► |
| **1.6.2 Practical contributions** | **Practical significance.**  ► |
| **1.6.3 Importance for a specific decision** | **For a specific design question or decision on a specific action,  discuss the importance of getting an answer to the research question and other knowledge gained from the study *Here optional*** *and very brief (see the examples). Elaborated in the Research Proposal.*  ► |