A Comparison of the Cognitive Styles of Deaf Students
with the Cognitive Styles of Hearing Students

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A Dissertation Proposal
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In Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of
Doctor of Philosophy

Approved and Recommended by

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CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

Your introduction begins with an Indented Paragraph (START YOUR PAPER HERE by replacing this sentence with your own words.)

Problem Statement

A brief description is made of the setting in which the study will be conducted. The problem to be addressed is clearly stated in a declaratory sentence, and a statement explaining the purpose of the research project is included. The statements about the subject to be investigated and the purposes of doing so should be sufficient to provide context but should not be so detailed or so full of generalities as to overshadow the subsequent sections that explain the steps to be taken in the project. A conceptual base from which the study flows should be developed in this section.

Research Questions

In this section, the critical issues pertaining to the problem should be explored more thoroughly than in the prospectus. This exploration should lead to some specific research questions to which answers will be sought. In some cases, research hypotheses will be formulated. They may be based on findings from previous research, on the observations and experiences of the Associate, or from situations that are significant within the
Associate’s NGO or work setting. The function of this section is to expand on the nature of the problem and the types of information needed to address it.

**Delimitations**

These define the scope of what will be studied and what will be excluded from the study based on whether or not certain issues are closely relevant to the research topic.

**Assumptions**

The assumptions are the “foundational perspectives for the study. They are not the issues to be addressed in the research.” And assumptions are often based on commonly accepted perspectives or “established precedent research” that provide essential perspectives with which readers are able to interpret the study appropriately (Elliston 2011, 27).

**Limitations of the Study**

This section should include a description of any conditions, restrictions, or constraints that may affect the validity of the study.
Definition of Terms

Any terms that are technical or specific to the area under investigation or that are given meaning in the study other than the way they are ordinarily used should be defined in this section.

Methodology and Procedures

It is essential that the research methodology to be used should be stated. Procedures should be outlined in clear, precise, sequential statements about how the project will be conducted. In many dissertations, it is helpful (if not essential) to seek assistance from some authoritative or competent source for validation or verification of instruments, statistical procedures, or the like to be used. Depending on the overall methodology, plans should be submitted on such matters as the sources of data and how they will be collected, sampling procedures if they are to be used, and the nature of contemplated survey instruments. The plan should also include a process for the identification of relevant dependent and independent variables, if appropriate, and how they will be used to give direction to the study. The plan must also describe how the data will be treated and how the data will be related back to each research question.

Theoretical Framework

Models and theories are often used to explain and understand phenomena in social science research. The theoretical framework consists of models and theories that are
relevant to your research, and it provides a structure under which your research project is supported. Most social science researches deal with problems that are interdisciplinary in nature, which would often require the researcher to develop the theoretical framework out of several relevant disciplines

**Implications for Improvement of Development Practice**

This section should include a discussion of the expected or anticipated implications of the study for the improvement of development practice.

**Significance of the Study**

Significance of the study often identifies the contribution of the study to the existing body of knowledge, and the immediate and future application of the study to the field work. It also anticipates the potential personal and corporate impact.

**Implementation and Dissemination**

Plans should be outlined for the implementation (if possible) and evaluation of the results. The Associate also describes how the results and recommendations of the study will be submitted to appropriate persons within the organization or institution and disseminated to outside organizations, including professional groups and publications.
CHAPTER 2
REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

In this chapter, you will review what has been done previously about your research topic, (1) to demonstrate the significance of your research issue, (2) to identify gaps in the existing knowledge that your research can fill, (3) to assess relevant theories and perspectives to establish evaluative tool or framework for your research data. Remember that review of literature is more than a summary of the precedent research. It should include “an evaluation of the relevance of the research from the perspective of the researcher’s central research issue and the contributions it may make to the present study” (Elliston 2011, 45).
REFERENCE LIST

WCIU requires Reference List (Author-Date) style in documentation systems. References List entries should only include the works cited in the proposal. It is the same for the dissertation. If you decide to include works you consulted but not cited in your proposal or dissertation, you may create an Other References section following Reference List.

The reference list should be a single alphabetized list. The sub-headings in bold letters are for your reference only. Do not include them in your actual Reference List. For cases you do not find on this sample list, you should refer to WCIU Reference Guide or Turabian 8th edition.

Single author or editor


Multiple authors


Editor, translator instead of author


Editor, translator in addition to author


Edition number


Single chapter in an edited book


Article in a print journal


**Article in an online journal**


**Thesis or dissertation**