

Research and Thesis Workshop: Questions, Resources, Tips, and More Questions

Dr. Stephanie Y. Evans

University of Florida

www.ProfessorEvans.com

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Outline

- ◆ Questions: What do you want to get from this workshop?
- ◆ Resources: Online sources and books
- ◆ Tips: Problem and Purpose Statements, Literature Review, Data sets, Theories, Findings, Process, & Patience
- ◆ Discussion and More Questions: Follow up...

Questions

- ◆ What do you want to get from this workshop?
- ◆ Where are you in the research/thesis process?
- ◆ What are your professional goals and how will research and writing help you to achieve those goals?

Resources

◆ ONLINE

- ◆ UF Dissertation and Thesis requirements; IRB protocols
- ◆ www.ProfessorEvans.com
- ◆ “Teaching--Worksheets & Data” or “Service--Resources and Requests”
- ◆ “Research” Articles in *Florida Historical Quarterly & Griot*;
- ◆ *Black Women in the Ivory Tower, 1850-1954: An Intellectual History*

◆ BOOKS

- ◆ Practical Research: Planning and Design
(Paul Leedy & Jeanne Ormrod, 2005)
- ◆ How to Prepare a Dissertation Proposal
(David Krathwohl & Nick Smith, 2005)

Tips

◆ Definition—what research is and is not

(Leedy & Ormrod, p. 1-2)

- ◆ Be clear about your original statement and contribution.
- ◆ Have passion, but demonstrate scholarly relevance to multiple audiences.

◆ Planning, Problem, and Purpose Statements (p.18)

- ◆ Realistically assess the project scope, significance, and objectives.
- ◆ Plan carefully, taking into full account deadlines, format requirements, and checklist steps at the department, university, and disciplinary level

◆ Literature Review (p. 64)

- ◆ Do not breeze through this process! Read! NO DRIVE BY CITATIONS!
- ◆ Each discipline has its own research protocol—read books/articles for content, but also consider the structure. Read on multiple levels and follow the standard citation style, data collection methods, and reporting structure. (EX: Marius & Franklin in U.S. history)

More Tips

◆ Data sets (p. 135-183)

- ◆ Who/What/When/Where are you studying?
- ◆ What type of approach makes sense (given the data)?
- ◆ What is a realistic scope? What (limited number) of sub-questions will you address? What ethical issues arise in this research area?

◆ Theoretical and Conceptual Frames

- ◆ Why are you studying this topic? What are your assumptions? How do you conceptually ground your approach? What scholars are you in dialogue with? With whom (exactly) do you disagree?

◆ Methodologies & Methods (p. 135-183)

- ◆ How are you studying this topic? Your data set will impact your methodology. Be clear about what type(s) of research you are conducting. Explain/justify your process and situate your methodology in relation to a RANGE of research on the topic.

Even More Tips

◆ Findings (p. 282-296)

- ◆ How do your findings compare with your intentions, assumptions, and/or hypotheses? For some research types you will not offer a hypothesis, but reflect on your process. What are possible ways to interpret/discuss your findings? Have a reason for each word or concept. Revisit your original question/ problem statement. Did you answer the question(s) you asked?

◆ Process & Patience

- ◆ Good research takes time. Plan far in advance, get practical research guides, look at dissertations in your field, form research discussion groups, find a network of academic mentors, “work hard and be nice” (Angela Bassett’s mother’s advice), and BREATHE.

Answers & More Questions

- ◆ Did I answer your original questions?
- ◆ What additional questions do you have for me/each other?
- ◆ What is your plan now?
- ◆ More questions?: visit my website, read my publications, and *then* email me drevans@ufl.edu