Epsilon Morning Session

Purpose Statement and Research Questions

Establishing Purpose Statement and Research Questions Exercise

1. Briefly describe (in writing/ word processed) the problem or major question which you think could be the focus of your dissertation (the prima fascia question).

2. Based on the description given in question #1 write a purpose statement. See Purpose Statement Handout to use as guide.

3. List (in writing/ word processed) the variables which are contained in your purpose statement.

4. Based on the purpose statement (specifically the variables identified) write out the related research questions.
Purpose Statement Handout

**Research Purpose Statement**

Tells the reader what is the primary goal of the research. It details the reason *why the study is being conducted.*

- States the objectives of the research.
- Informs the reader of the method of research.
- Identifies the population studied, the setting, and includes the phenomena or variables being studied.
Remember Research Questions are a re-statement of what you have said in the Purpose statement. Here is an example:

**Purpose Statement**

This qualitative study sought to describe how participation in formal mentoring programs for youth impacted the dynamics of social exchange for Hispanic male mentors in the Coachella Valley.

**Research Questions**

Research questions serve to guide this study as follows:

1. In what ways did participation in a formal mentoring program impact the dynamics of social exchange for Hispanic male mentors in the Coachella Valley?
Research Questions continued

• Four kinds of questions*:

1. What is the situation?
2. What is going on in the situation?
3. What happens when....? (introduction of new policy, procedure, etc.)
4. What is the relationship between major variables in the situation?

Differing Nature of Research Questions

• **Quantitative Questions**
  - seek to identify
  - seek to measure
  - seek to compare
  - seek to examine
  - seek to discover the relationship between variables
  - generate data that is measurable requiring mathematical analysis

• **Qualitative Questions**
  - seek to describe
  - seek to probe
  - are opened ended
  - ask questions of how and what led to a given position
  - seek to understand perception and context
  - generate data requiring identification of patterns, themes, etc.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question/Feasibility</th>
<th>Aligned with Purpose Statement?</th>
<th>Is it clearly stated as a quant. or qual. question?</th>
<th>Is it stated in a direct and precise manner?</th>
<th>Do you have a sample in mind for the question(s)? Feasible to engage that sample?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Question #1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question #2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question #3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question #4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>