**SCWK 470 SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS II**

**RESEARCH PROJECT: FINAL ASSIGNMENT**

**Assignment:** Write a paper that evaluates the empirical status of a knowledge proposition that you think is important to your discipline. The paper must be typewritten; double-spaced with one-inch margins all around; and use 12-point font. REMEMBER: Writing counts! Use the Writing Center!!! Use spell check!! Revise, revise, revise!!!!!

**Structure of the paper**: The paper must follow the outline presented below and must limit the space devoted to any section or subsection to the amount of space indicated in parentheses at the end of each section in the outline below. The paper must deal with each of the issues presented in the outline and must present the discussion in the order suggested by the outline. The paper must use the section numbers, but not the topic headings contained in the outline. Note: Remember: all sources are to be empirical articles from professional journals.

**Outline for paper:**

**1.**Cover page: Include your name, class number and section, date and the title of the paper. The title of the paper is: The relationship between \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (name the two variables in your proposition).

**2.** State a knowledge proposition (hypothesis) that names two variables and the relationship between them; and state your belief that this is an important knowledge proposition to your discipline. (1-2 sentences)

**3.** State which is the antecedent, and which is the consequent variable. (1 sentence)

**4.** Provide a conceptual definition of each of the two variables. (1-2 paragraphs, per variable)

**5.** Assert that you are going to investigate the empirical status of the knowledge proposition by reviewing relevant empirical articles. (1 sentence)

**6.** State that you will describe the search strategy that you used to find information about the empirical status of the proposition by presenting a chart (1 sentence). Present the chart, using the following outline:

 Years Database Key words/Phrases # Abstracts found

Length of chart depends on extensiveness of search; your search should be extensive and

* **must contain at least two databases, one of which must be PsycInfo and the other of which must be either Medline, Sociological Abstracts, or Eric (You may want to use EBSCO multiple search).**
* **use 5 search combinations for each database and must contain *at least* three different keywords/phrases**
* **each individual search must include three elements: a keyword/phrase for the antecedent variable, a keyword/phrase for the consequent variable, and a keyword/phrase for the sample**

Under the heading “Key words/Phrases,” put the several key words for each search, e.g., the several key words for one search of the hypothesis, community violence causes anxiety among adolescents, could be community and violence and anxiety and adolescent.

NOTE: Use only ***hypothesis-testing*** research articles

 : You are searching for information on the hypothesis; therefore, **each search must combine key words from both *antecedent* and *consequent* variables *and* from the *sample*.**

**7.** Describe your general reaction to the results of the search: were you surprised by the amount of information you found on the relationship between the two variables in your knowledge proposition? e.g., was it more than, less than, or about what you expected to find? (1-2 sentences)

**8.** Report the findings, from the relevant empirical research article(s) that you found in your search, about whether or not there is covariation between the two variables in your proposition; report findings from no more than three studies. You must find the information regarding covariation in the text and/or in the table; information about covariation is typically given along with statistical significance (the probability level).

Use proper APA style for citing articles in the text. [Note: You must state the exact page(s) on which the finding(s) may be found in the article (text and/or table(s)). **Remember to look for the probability level**!!!]

If you find more than three relevant studies, select the three most recently published studies to report the findings; if you find fewer than three relevant studies, report the results of the studies that you did find. If you find no relevant studies, 1) report that fact; and 2) either a) mention one study that initially seemed promising and relevant but turned out not to be relevant; and explain why it was not relevant, e.g., it did not directly address my knowledge proposition; rather, it addressed the following knowledge proposition: . . . ; OR b) mention one study that is relevant to the population and one of the variables in your knowledge proposition and state the hypothesis that the researcher(s) report.

Remember that to be relevant a study must report on covariation between the two variables in your proposition -- although the term "covariation" may not be used in the report. Remember to look for statistical significance and the probability level in order to determine covariation! (1 paragraph)

**9.** Report your conclusion, based on what you found and the adequacy of your search, about the empirical status of your knowledge proposition. (Is it an assumption (widely believed, no evidence), a myth (widely believed, evidence says the opposite), a fact (widely believed and true), or is there mixed evidence?) (1-2 sentences)

**10**. Present one implication of your findings; the implication should be in your major, e.g., social work, psychology, sociology, education, and anthropology. (2 sentences)

**11**. List, under a centered heading "References", the references that you cite in your paper.

**12.** Attach (or a snapshot) a copy(ies) of the *articles* (not abstracts) whose findings you reported in 8, above. Include, if appropriate, the article that you initially thought was relevant but that turned out not to be so. (Note: the number of articles copied must match the number of articles whose findings you reported in 8, above, and in no case may exceed three!)

**Mark directly on the article where you found information about covariation between the two variables in your knowledge proposition (or have the snapshot in the appropriate place). The information may be found in the text and/or tables**. **Remember:** the information should include the probability level!!

NOTE: Communication ability will be incorporated into the grade; you are strongly advised to USE THE WRITING CENTER!!!