

Dissertation Series

Dissertational Research Writing Skills and APA Style

Jacob Ajang

Trident University International

Under the Supervision of Dissertation Committee

1. Chairperson: Dr. Heeja Kim

Professor of College of Education
Trident University International
Cypress, California

2. Member: Dr. Wenling Li

Professor and Director, PhD Program
Trident University International
Cypress, California

3. Member: Dr. Rhonda Parmley

Instructor of Social and Behavioral Sciences,
Front Range Community College
Fort Collins, Colorado

Abstract

In this paper, I will discuss two sections: **Section – One:** discusses the skills that I will continue to use in fulfillment of my dissertational research; and **Section Two:** Discusses whether I have had an opportunity to learn American Psychological Association (APA) style, indicate the knowledge I have acquired from learning APA style and, if I can share the knowledge with my colleagues.

Section One: The skills that I will continue to use to master my research

In this dissertational continuation course, I have learned that writing a dissertation research proposal requires critical and analytical approaches to develop the flow of a paper. The focus is to maintain reader's attention to have a better understanding of my study. Good quality research study help readers browse and point toward the objectives of my script. As a Ph.D student researcher, I have had the opportunity to obtain and develop an independent research skill from all my program courses that I have taken at Trident University International in fulfillment of my dissertation. These skills include the ability to identify and prepare the subject of the study, and develop conceptual and methodological skills.

Now, I am able to apply and use the skills mentioned above toward achieving my profession.

There are two areas that my research skills will be used on:

First – to ensure that my dissertation committee is supervising my work this includes:

1. Inform and share with them the progress of the dissertation;
2. get feedback from the committee and revise areas that need revision;
3. Clarify and reorganize ideas; and
4. Share my struggles studying difficult topics.

Second – managing my own dissertation pace which includes:

1. Effective time management to ensure all required assignments are submitted on time;
2. plan a strategic schedule and stick to it by blocking two hours a day to work on my dissertation report; and
3. Build trust by promising that all of these skills are achievable as well as become an individual that can be counted on all the ways to graduation day.

Section Two: Have you got a chance to learn APA style? What did you learn from that?**What do you want to share with others?**

I have had an opportunity to learn APA style. Prior to taking my doctorate courses at Trident University International, I had taken courses to learn and manage APA style at Bellevue University while doing my Master's degree. There are numerous items that I have learned and should be considered when using APA style which include:

1. Running heading – should be written in capital letters and at the top of every page.
2. Title Page – the title page include an author name, name of the institution, and all should be centered on the page.
3. Abstract – the abstract should between be 15-250 words and not bold.
4. Introduction – the introduction presents the problem that the research is addressing.
5. In-citations – should include the author's/authors' last name, followed by the year of publication possible including the page number.
6. References – providing records of sources you have used in your paper.

Finally, I want to share with my colleagues that writing an introductory analytical research proposal can be one of the most challenging tasks. I believe I have improved my knowledge, skills and ability through the courses I have taken toward my Master's degree as well as at Trident University International. These skills will help me write an effective dissertation research. I need a clear idea of what my first point of writing will be. I find it difficult some times when I jumpstart my writing without researching and collecting resources that will help me analyze the purpose of my research study. More importantly, I believe it is important to organize and introduce my study clearly to gain attention or establish credibility for the proposal. All the

research skills I have learned in my doctorate program courses will help me fulfill the dissertation research requirements.