

2024

RCE2601

RESEARCH AND CRITICAL REASONING

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTIONAL STUDIES

Marks:100

Assessment 2

Instructions:

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS.

SUBMIT YOUR ANSWER DOCUMENT ONLINE AS ONE PDF FILE.

DECLARATION

(Your assessment will not be marked if this is not completed.)

I, (name and surname)

Student number:

Module code:

Hereby declare the following:

I understand Unisa's policy on plagiarism. This assessment is my original work produced by myself. I have duly acknowledged all other people's work (both electronic and print) through the proper reference techniques as stipulated in this module.

I have not copied the work of others and handed it in as my own. I have also not made my work available to any fellow students to submit as their own.

Signature:.....

Date:.....

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Read the study guide and the reader before you complete this portfolio. Read other research-related sources to enrich your knowledge.
2. **For your final assignment, we present you with two options to choose from:**
 - 2.1 Option 1: Overcrowded Classrooms.**
 - 2.2 Option 2: Support for Learners with Physical Disabilities.**
3. Choose one option (3.1 or 3.2) to write your research proposal. You need to create a proposal of your own, from creating the title to writing the summary and bibliography.
4. You must prepare thoroughly for this assignment.
5. Read the entire text of this module (reader and study guide) again. Every part of it has a connection to your proposal. Consult different sources to write a rich proposal and reference all sources used. Remember that a proposal is a plan for conducting your research project. You should use the future tense.
6. Adhere strictly to the structure and length requirements as set out below.
7. Your assignment should be typed in Arial font, size 12, with a line spacing of 1.5. This assignment should not exceed six (6) pages.
8. Please number the sections of your proposal using the same numbering as given below.

Structure of action research proposal

An action research proposal typically has the following sections:

- Title
- Introduction
- Problem statement
- Research approach
- Literature review
- Research participants
- Data collection and analysis
- Summary

Here are brief comments on what is expected in each section.

1. Write a title for your research, not exceeding 15 words

(5)

2. **Introduction** (half a page)

As is the case with any good introduction, you should first and foremost capture your reader's or listener's interest and give an orientation to what will be presented in the text. Refer to different sources to cover your topic and emphasize why attention to the topic is needed.

(10)

3. **Problem statement** (half a page)

In this section, you need to explain how and why your topic attracted your attention. Briefly describe the scope and seriousness of the problem, and close with a research question phrased as follows: "How can [a particular measure] help to improve [the particular problem]?" Follow the guidelines on research problems as provided to you as examples in Learning Unit 1.

(10)

4. **Literature review** (one page)

In this section, you should highlight relevant academic literature findings on your topic. You should find and study at least four relevant academic articles by using the guidelines given in section 3.3 (in Learning Unit 3). Identify the main arguments in the articles by using the guidelines in Learning Unit 2. Present these arguments with proper reference to the articles (Section 3.3 in Learning Unit 3).

(25)

5. Research Approach (half a page)

Explain the overall strategy or plan for conducting the research. This could include whether the study is qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-methods. Describe why this particular approach is chosen and how it aligns with the research objectives. Refer to Section 3.4 in Learning Unit 3.

(10)

(6) Research participants (half a page)

Here you should indicate who will participate in your action research. For example, will your sample be colleagues? A particular class? or A selected group of parents? It is essential to motivate your choice of participants (sampling technique/participant selection). Also, indicate your procedure of introducing your research to the participants, and to win their commitment.

(10)

(7) Data collection and analysis (one page)

This section covers the heart of your action research, and you should prepare for it by a thorough re-study of Section 3.5 in Learning Unit 3. Keep in mind that three methods of data collection are especially popular in action research: namely interviewing, observation, and questionnaires. Carefully consider the most appropriate method(s) for your action research and motivate your choice. Then give a detailed description of how, where, and when you will collect your data, and especially, how you will capture the data (for example, by taking notes, making recordings, or safekeeping of completed questionnaires) for later analysis.

(20)

(8) Summary (one paragraph)

Close your action research proposal by reiterating its focus and importance. State your expectations of your project and ensure that your excitement is discernible.

(9) Bibliography

A crucial requirement in all academic writing is that the researcher takes great care to present all the sources (books, articles) used, and to format them correctly in a bibliography. Even this module has a bibliography—you will find it right at the end, giving you a good idea about writing and formatting a bibliography. Study the following examples thoroughly, and apply them (where applicable) to present your references (minimum of five):

- Entries in the bibliography should appear in alphabetical order. "Cronbach, LJ. 1980." should appear before "Cronbach, LJ & Furby, L. 1970". "MacPherson" should precede "McArthur".
- Source references to articles should be given by first citing the names of all the authors, followed by the year, the title of the article, the unabbreviated title of the journal, the volume and issue number, and the applicable pages. For example:
Johnson, DW & Johnson, RT. 1993. Gifted students illustrate what is not cooperative learning. *Educational Leadership*, 50(5):60–61.

In book references the surnames and initials of all the authors should be given, followed by the year of publication, the title, the edition (if there is more than one edition), the place of publication, and the publisher. For example:

McMillan, JH & Schumacher, S. 2010. *Education research: evidence-based inquiry*. (7th edition.) Boston: Pearson.

(5)

TOTAL:100