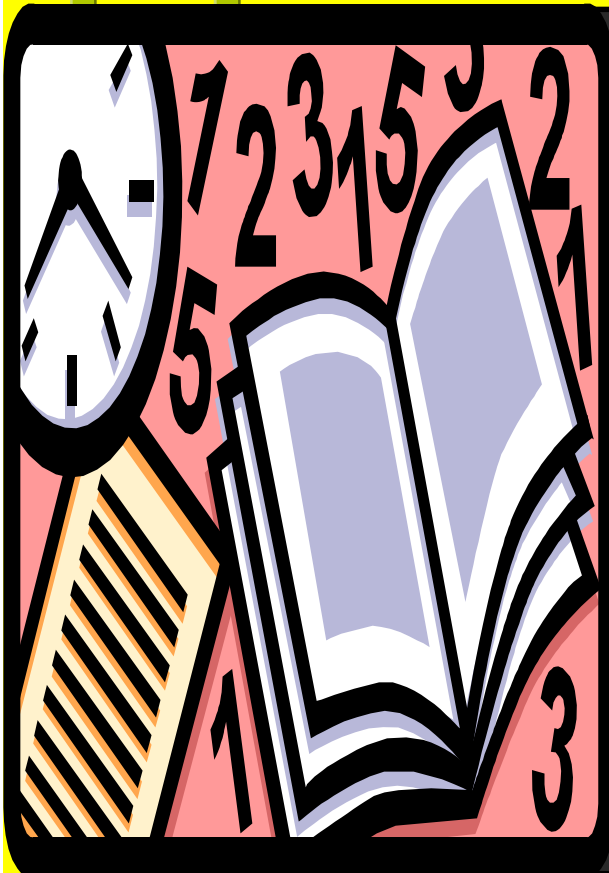


SPECIAL TOPIC SEMINAR



**THE DISSERTATION
PROPOSAL:
SESSION 1: CHAPTER 1
FOR
WALDEN UNIVERSITY**
by
Earl C. Joseph

TOPICS COVERED

■ 1ST SESSION: CHAPTER 1

◆ *INTRODUCTION: WHAT ARE YOU INTENDING TO DO?*

■ 2ND SESSION: CHAPTER 2

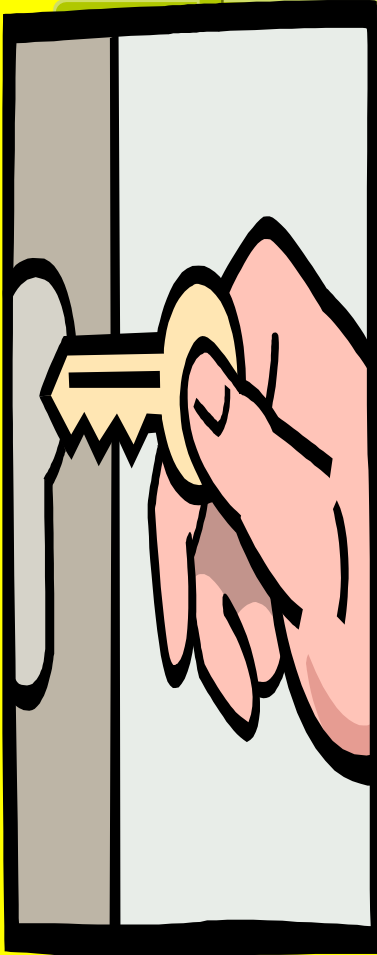
◆ *LITERATURE REVIEW: WHAT'S BEEN DONE & WHY IS YOUR RESEARCH IMPORTANT?*

■ 3RD SESSION: CHAPTER 3

◆ *METHODOLOGY: HOW WILL YOU DO IT?*



DEFINITIONS

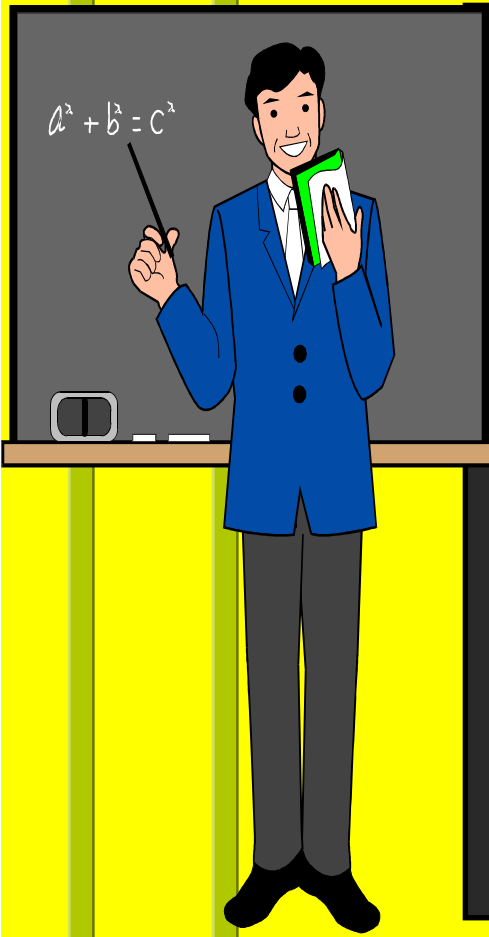


■ **DISSERTATION: A SUBSTANTIVE, ORIGINAL, SCHOLARLY STUDY OF A TOPIC GROUNDED IN SOCIAL SCIENCE WHICH MAKES A UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO KNOWLEDGE**

■ **PROPOSAL: THE FIRST THREE CHAPTERS OF THE DISSERTATION - A COHERENT, SYSTEMATIC, AND METHODOLOGICAL PLAN**

■ **CHAPTER 1: RATIONALE FOR YOUR RESEARCH**

1ST SESSION TOPICS



- **TITLE PAGE, ABSTRACT, & INTRO**
- ***PROBLEM STATEMENT***
- **BACKGROUND ON PROBLEM**
- ***PURPOSE STATEMENT***
- **HYPOTHESIS OR RESEARCH QUESTIONS**
- ***THEORETICAL FOUNDATION***
- **DEFINITIONS OF TERMS**
- ***ASSUMPTIONS***
- **SCOPE & LIMITATIONS**
- ***SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY***

STARTING POINT



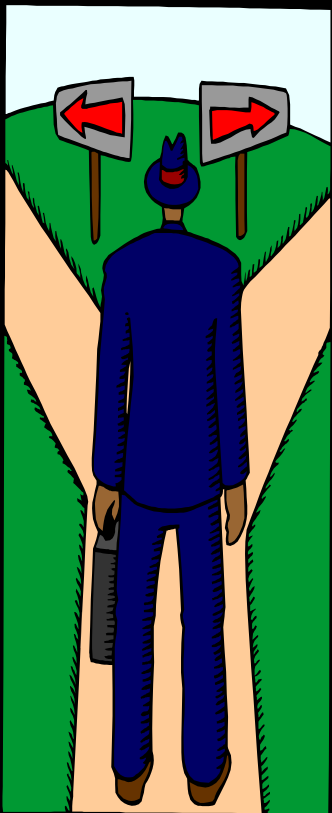
■ FIRST DECIDE AND DRAFT:

- ◆ DISSERTATION TITLE
- ◆ PROBLEM STATEMENT
- ◆ PURPOSE STATEMENT

■ USE THESE TO FOCUS:

- ◆ DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSAL
- ◆ DISSERTATION RESEARCH

TITLE



- **SHOULD INDICATE SPECIFICALLY AND SUCCINCTLY WHAT WILL BE THE THRUST OF THE RESEARCH**
- ***IT SHOULD COVER WHAT OTHER RESEARCHERS WOULD SEARCH ON TO FIND YOUR RESEARCH***

TITLE PAGE



- **CENTER ALL INFORMATION ON THE PAGE; SHOULD SPREAD FROM TOP TO BOTTOM OF PAGE; COVERING:**
 - ◆ ***1ST: WALDEN UNIVERSITY***
 - ◆ ***2ND: DISSERTATION PROPOSAL***
 - ◆ ***3RD: TITLE***
 - ◆ ***4TH: RESEARCHERS NAME***
 - ◆ ***5TH: A PROPOSAL SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY***
 - ◆ ***6TH: COMMITTEE MEMBERS***
 - ◆ ***7TH: DATE SUBMITTED/UP-DATED***

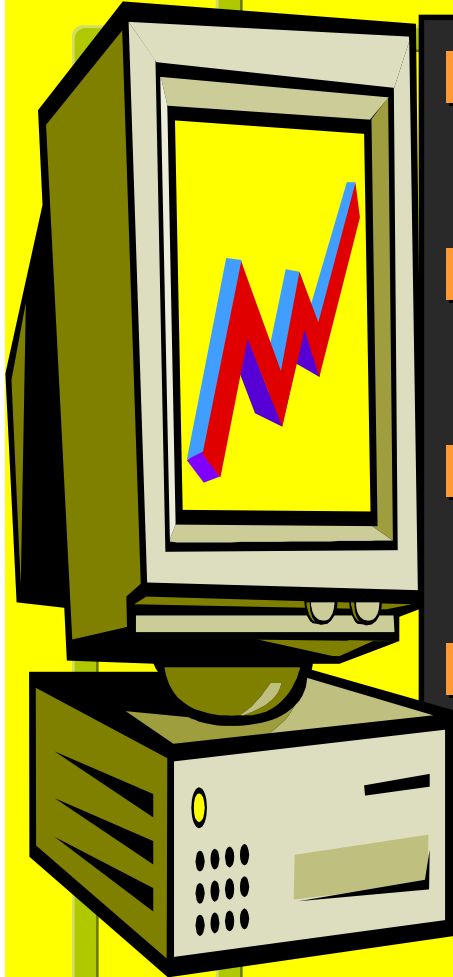
TABLE OF CONTENTS (TOC)



SEPARATE PAGE AFTER TITLE PAGE:

- ◆ **CHAPTER 1 TOC**
- ◆ **CHAPTER 2 TOC**
- ◆ **CHAPTER 3 TOC**
- ◆ **ILLUSTRATIONS, TABLES, DIAGRAMS TOC**

INTRODUCTION



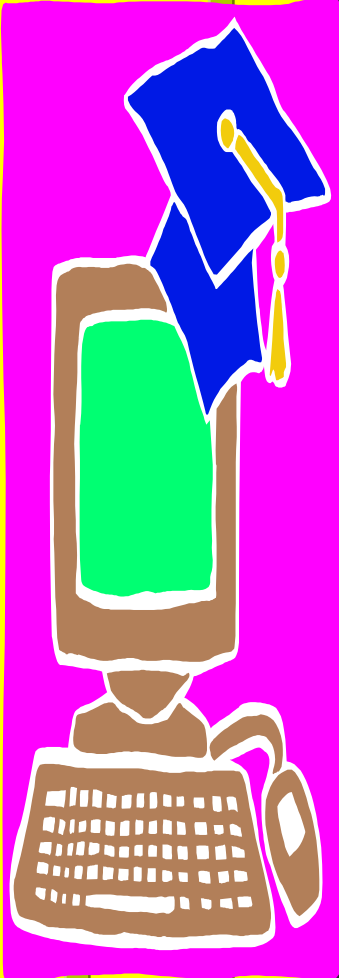
- ELABORATE ON THE TITLE OF THE DISSERTATION
- *DEVELOP A RATIONAL FOR THE RESEARCH*
- COVER WHY THE RESEARCH IS IMPORTANT
- *CONVEY TO THE READER WHAT THE DISSERTATION IS ABOUT*
- SUMMARY OF MAJOR ISSUES

PROBLEM STATEMENT



- ***STATE WHAT THE PROBLEM IS***
- ***BASE IT ON RESEARCH AND THEORY IN THE FIELD OF STUDY***
- ***EXPLAIN THE RATIONALE FOR IT BEING A PROBLEM WORTHY OF INVESTIGATION***
 - ◆ ***STATE WHY IT MATTERS***

BACKGROUND ON PROBLEM



- ELABORATE ON THE PROBLEM -- AS A LEAD INTO THE PURPOSE OF YOUR RESEARCH:
 - ◆ *WHY THE PROBLEM IS WORTH RESEARCHING*
 - ◆ RATIONALE FOR STUDYING THE PROBLEM -- ITS CONTEXT
 - ◆ *WHY THE RESEARCH IS NEEDED (A CITATION FROM THE LITERATURE)*
 - ◆ WHY PREVIOUS RESEARCH ON THE PROBLEM IS INADEQUATE (CITE FROM PREVIOUS RESEARCH)

PURPOSE STATEMENT



- **EXPLICITLY STATE WHAT YOU WILL RESEARCH**
- ***IDENTIFY IN SPECIFIC TERMS THE DEPENDENT AND INDEPENDENT VARIABLES TO BE INVESTIGATED***
- **OFTEN STATED AS A QUESTION**

HYPOTHESIS OR RESEARCH QUESTIONS



■ RESEARCH QUESTIONS

◆ *WHAT QUESTIONS YOUR RESEARCH WILL ANSWER*

■ HYPOTHESIS

◆ *SOMETHING YOUR RESEARCH WILL PROVE OR DISPROVE*

THEORETICAL FOUNDATION

- **CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK: HOW TO LOOK AT THE PROBLEM**
- ***THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: WHAT ARE THE KEY CONSTRUCTS***
 - ◆ **GROUNDING ON SOLID THEORY IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES**
 - ◆ ***BASED ON... STATE WHAT AND/OR WHOSE THEORY***
 - ◆ **THEORETICAL RELATIONSHIPS**



DEFINITIONS OF TERMS



- DEFINE THE TERMS YOU WILL USE THAT SOMEONE OUTSIDE OF YOUR FIELD WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND
 - ◆ DEFINE THE WAY YOU ARE USING EACH TERM
- *DEFINE TERMS YOU DON'T WANT TO RESEARCH*
- CITE THE REFERENCES WHERE YOU FOUND DEFINITIONS
- *DEFINE ACRONYMS*

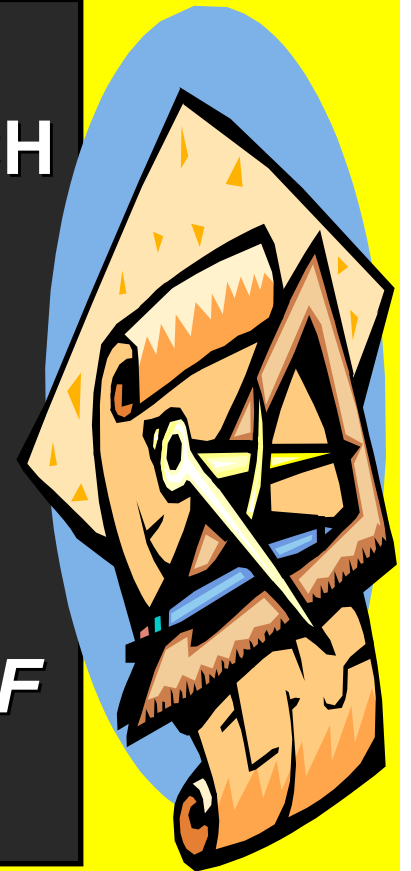
ASSUMPTIONS

- BASIC ASSUMPTIONS
- APPROACHES MOTIVATED BY COMMON UNDERSTANDINGS
- BASED UPON WHICH THEORETICAL “SCHOOL”/GROUP
- ASSUMPTIONS USED OR CHALLENGED
- TRADITIONAL VERSUS NEW
- WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE IT WORK

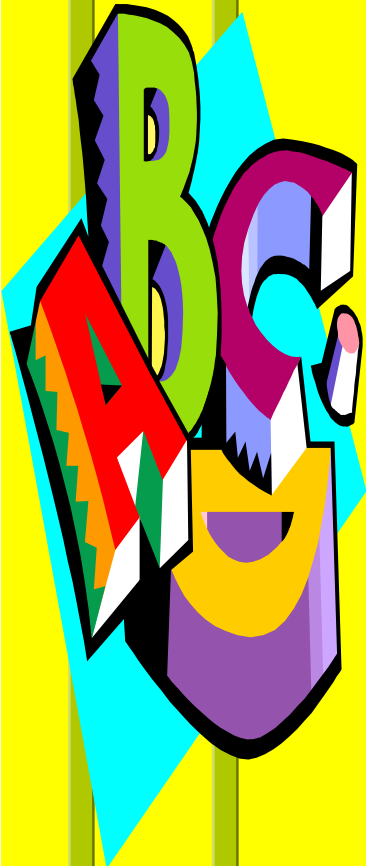


SCOPE & LIMITATIONS

- **CONSIDERATIONS THAT HAVE A DIRECT BEARING ON THE RESEARCH**
- ***WHAT IS OR NOT INCLUDED***
- **WHAT IS AND IS NOT CONTROLLED**
- ***BIAS OF THE SAMPLE POPULATION***
- **METHODOLOGICAL BIAS**
- ***APPLICABILITY AND LIMITATIONS OF THE RESEARCH***

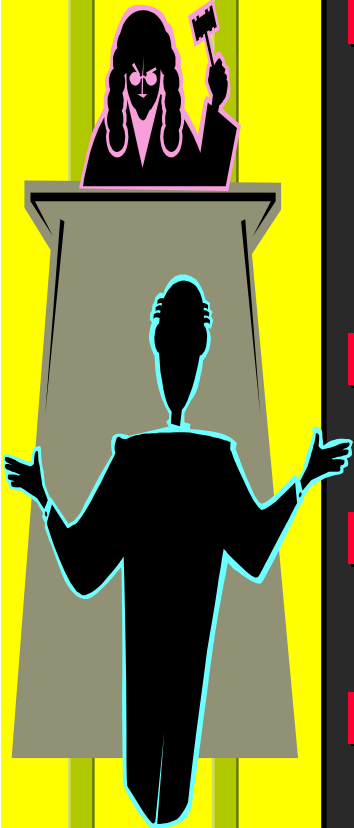


SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY - 1



- MAJOR VALUE OF RESEARCH RESULTS
 - ◆ *ADDITIONAL VALUES*
- WHAT THE RESEARCH MAY SHOW, DEMONSTRATE, SERVE AS, OR PROVIDE
- *MEANING FOR THE FUTURE*
- *SOCIAL BENEFIT OF THE RESEARCH*

SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY - 2



- ***IMPORTANCE OF THE RESEARCH IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CURRENT STATE OF KNOWLEDGE ON THE SUBJECT***
- ***WHY THE TOPIC IS WORTH RESEARCHING***
- ***DOES IT HAVE POSITIVE IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIETY***
- ***WILL IT & HOW WILL IT CONTRIBUTE TO UNDERSTANDING OF THE TOPIC***

REVIEWING PAST DISSERTATIONS



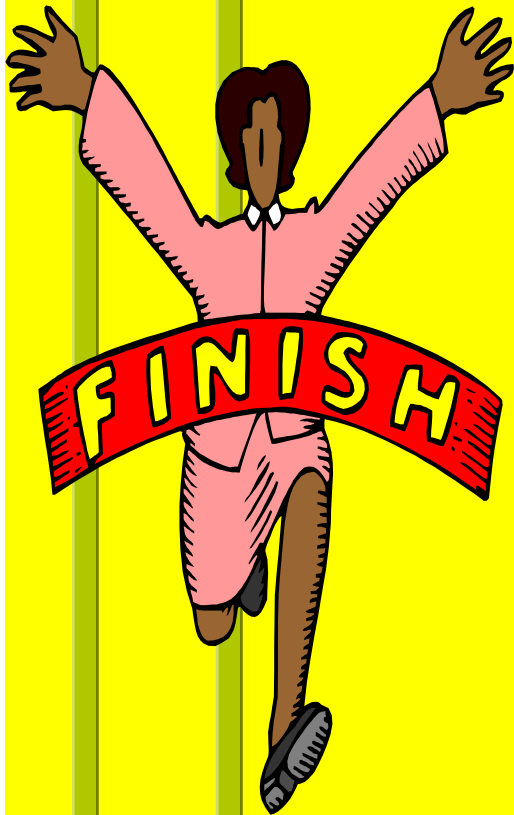
- TO DEMONSTRATE WHY YOUR RESEARCH IS NEEDED
- *TO FIND RESEARCH BEARING ON YOUR RESEARCH*
- *USE THEM AS A MODEL FOR THE PREPARATION OF YOURS*
 - ◆ *TO GET A FEEL FOR THE STYLE*

WRITING STYLE



- **FOR THE TOTAL DISSERTATION:**
 - ◆ **BE CLEAR**
 - ◆ **BE UNAMBIGUOUS**
 - ➔ **STICK TO THE FACTS**
 - ➔ **BE EXPLICIT**
 - ➔ **DON'T OFFER OPINIONS**
 - ◆ **NOT DESIGNED TO BE ENTERTAINING**
 - ◆ **ADJECTIVES ARE SELDOM USED**
 - ◆ **NEVER USE "I"**

AT END OF EACH CHAPTER



■ LAST PARAGRAPH:

◆ *BRIEFLY SUMMARIZE
WHAT THE CHAPTER
COVERED*

◆ **BRIEFLY SUMMARIZE
WHAT THE NEXT CHAPTER
WILL COVER**

BIBLIOGRAPHY

>Denzin, N. K. & Y. S. Lincoln (Eds.) (1994)., Handbook of qualitative research. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

>Gardner, D. C. & G. (1980). **Dissertation proposal guidebook: How to prepare a research proposal and how to get it accepted.** Charles C Thomas Pub Ltd.

>Locke, L., Spirduso, W., & Silverman, S. (2000). **Proposals that work: A guide for planning dissertations and grant proposals.** Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.