

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
EDLE 801 Contemporary Organization Theory, Section B01
Summer 2014

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Office hours: Tuesday/Thursday 2:00 – 4:00 and by appointment

Schedule Information

Location: Blue Ridge 127

Meeting times: Mondays and Wednesday, 4:30 – 7:10 p.m.

Course Description:

EDLE 801 Contemporary Organization Theory (3:3:0)

Engages students in the study of major organization theories that inform educational leadership research. Students use theory to help inform their own research interests. Students begin work on analytical literature review.

Course Objectives

EDLE 801 is one of the first courses in the education leadership concentration/specialization sequence designed to provide a firm foundation for students' research in education leadership. The general emphasis in the sequence is on students learning how to explore their research interests in the context of the larger sweep of education leadership as a field, with a focus on how leaders at all levels impact the effectiveness and improvement of schools and school systems.

These courses are constructed as surveys. The goals include introducing students to a wide variety of theory and applied research on organization theory, leadership, and decision making, particularly in educational contexts. The courses also seek to provide you with the opportunity to develop your *personae* as researchers, and to develop the necessary skills to be successful as a doctoral candidate in education leadership. The courses are designed around the theme of connecting ***theory, research, and practice***. Thus, we will explore:

Vision: The Education Leadership Program is dedicated to improving the quality of pre-K – 12 education through teaching, research, and service. Candidates and practicing administrators engage in course work devoted to experiential learning, professional growth opportunities, and doctoral research that informs practice. We educate exceptional leaders who act with integrity as they work to improve schools.

1. Theory: What are the features and assumptions of the perspective? What content themes are stressed? Does the perspective adequately describe, explain, and predict something of interest in the world of educational leaders?
2. Research: What kinds of empirical questions tend to be addressed using this perspective? Are there any particular methodological considerations associated with the perspective (i.e., unit of analysis, typical research methods used)?
3. Practice: What does each perspective help us understand about school leadership, organizations, and decision making? What are the limitations of the perspective?

Student Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a solid understanding of formal leadership and organization theory through discussion, presentation and written paper assignments;
2. Read research literature and present persuasive written and oral critiques;
3. Engage in conversation to explore topics in their field of interest that represent opportunities for future investigation;
4. Use theory to frame researchable questions and use extant literature to inform problems relating to research and professional practice; and
5. Further develop their ability to write doctoral-level papers.

National Standards

The following Education Leadership Constituent Council standards are addressed in this course:

- 1.1 Develop a vision
- 1.2 Articulate a vision
- 2.2 Provide effective instructional program
- 6.1 Understand the larger context
- 6.2 Respond to the larger context

Nature of Course Delivery

Each class will include a variety of activities and exercises. Broadly speaking, your primary responsibilities are 1) to read the literature; 2) to share your questions, reflect on your experiences, and engage in productive discussion to make the literature relevant to the world of practice that we experience and understand; and 3) to write, share your written work, and provide feedback to others in a respectful fashion.

1. Classes will reflect a balance of activities that enable students to participate actively in the development of their *personae* as scholars. To promote an atmosphere that allows us to accomplish this, we will:
 - a. start and end on time;
 - b. maintain (flexibly) a written agenda reflecting objectives for each class;
 - c. support our points of view with evidence;
 - d. strive to be open to new ideas and perspectives; and
 - e. listen actively to one another.

2. Student work will reflect what is expected from scholars. As such, students are expected to:
 - a. write papers that are well researched, proofread, submitted in a timely fashion, and consistent with APA guidelines;
 - b. participate actively in class discussions in a manner that challenges the best thinking of the class; and
 - c. provide constructive feedback to others both on their ideas and on their written work, striving to learn from each other and to test each other's ideas.

3. We will endeavor to create a classroom climate that approximates what we know about learning organizations. As such, it is important that we create a space that allows participants to try out new ideas and voice opinions without fear of ridicule or embarrassment. The hallmark of a learning organization is a balance between openness and constructive feedback; hence, everyone is expected to:
 - a. come fully prepared to each class;
 - b. demonstrate appropriate respect for one another;
 - c. voice concerns and opinions about class process openly;
 - d. recognize and celebrate each other's ideas and accomplishments; and
 - e. show an awareness of each other's needs.

Course Materials

Reading—Required

Marion, R. & Gonzales, L. (2014). *Leadership in education: Organizational theory for the practitioner (2nd ed.)*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press.

Tosi, H. (Ed.). (2009). *Theories of organization*. Los Angeles: Sage. (recommended)

Books are available in the GMU Bookstore in the Johnson Center. In addition to the books, there will be a number of required readings available from the Johnson Center library's e-reserves and through a flash drive or DVD specially prepared for the course.

To complete required assignments successfully, students will need to have access to a personal computer with internet access, and the ability to use basic word processing and e-mail. Correspondence by e-mail will use your Mason e-mail account. We will also use TaskStream to facilitate communication, to post assignments and class handouts, and to submit written work for assessment.

Grading

Consistent with expectations of any doctoral program, grading is based heavily on student performance on written assignments. The assignments constructed for this course reflect a mix of skills associated with synthesis and critique. Overall, written work will be assessed using the following broad criteria:

- Application of concepts reflected in class discussion and readings, and your ability to pick the most salient concepts and apply them.
- Creativity and imagination; papers provide an opportunity to speculate, to float questions or ideas reflecting your appreciation of the literature.
- Organization and writing. A clear, concise, and well-organized paper will earn a better grade.

Additionally, a portion of your class grade will be based on participation and the contribution you make to class discussions. The overall weights of the various performances are as follows:

Class leadership and participation - 20 points

Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions, in study group activities, and in serving as critical friends to other students. Each student will be expected to **co-teach** during at least one class session. Co-teaching will be planned with one of the instructors. Students will periodically have an opportunity to read and review each other's work in colleague-critical teams, as well.

As stated earlier, attendance is expected for all classes. If you must be absent, please notify one of the instructors by e-mail or phone. More than one absence may result in a reduction in participation points. Likewise, arriving at class more than 30 minutes late or leaving more than 30 minutes before the end of class may result in loss of points.

Written assignments - 80 points

Two different types of papers will be expected of students in this class, one reflecting the skills associated with *critique* and the other *synthesis of research literature*. The critiques will take the form of analyses of published research papers. Synthesis papers require the application of research to a problem you may be interested in studying. All papers must be submitted to TaskStream as Word file attachments. The specific assignments appear at the end of the syllabus.

The Research Problem and Rationale paper is the program-level Performance-Based Assessment for this course.

Late work: It is expected that student work will be submitted on time. Late assignments may receive a deduction in points; however, assignments will not be accepted later than one week after a due date.

Rewrites: Students who receive a grade lower than 3.5 may re-write their papers. All re-writes are due one week after the student receives the initial grade and comments.

Grading scale:

A+	=	100 points	A	=	95-99 points
A-	=	90-94 points	B+	=	87-89 points
B	=	84-86 points	B-	=	80-83 points
C	=	75-79 points	F	=	below 75 points

George Mason University Policies and Resources for Students

- a. Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code (See <http://oai.gmu.edu/honor-code/>).
- b. Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
- c. Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- d. The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance (See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>).
- e. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester (See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>).
- f. Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- g. The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing (See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>).

PROFESSIONAL DISPOSITIONS

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

CORE VALUES COMMITMENT

The College of Education & Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>.

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, Graduate School of Education, please visit our website [See <http://gse.gmu.edu/>]

Weekly Schedule (subject to change)

	Topics	Readings, assignments
June 2	<p>Overview: What’s expected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some academic advising 	<p>Exercises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jigsaw -- Charles Perrow’s “The short and glorious history of organizational theory”
June 4	<p>Theory, Research & Practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduction to the study of organizational theory ➤ Theory, research & practice— characteristics of successful doctoral students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Study group protocol: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Gronn (2008). The future of distributed leadership ✓ Harris (2004). Distributed leadership and school improvement. <p>RR lite: Sinden, Hoy & Sweetland (2004) – Enabling school structure...</p>
June 9		
June 11	<p>The machine metaphor: Classical management theory & bureaucracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frederick W. Taylor, The principles of scientific mgt; Max Weber, Bureaucracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Film: “Clockwork” • Administrative Progressives and the structure of schooling • What is a critique? Preparing for the first written assignment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ M&G chapter 1 • Hechinger (1988) – Does school structure matter? • Simon (1993) -- Decision making: rational, non-rational, and irrational <p>RR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trujillo (2014) – The modern cult of efficiency...
June 16	<p>Enter people: Human relations theory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayo, Roethlisberger, Barnard • Maslow, A theory of human motivation • McGregor, The human side of the enterprise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ M&G chapter 2 & 3 <p>RR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adams (2014) – Collective trust...
June 18	<p>Organizations as organisms: Open systems, Contingency theory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katz & Kahn, Organization & the systems concept • Thompson, Organizations in action • Burns & Stalker, Mechanistic and organic systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ M&G chapter 4 <p>RR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arsen & Ni (2012). The effects of charter school competition <p>Bring draft of critique 1, due June 20th</p>

	Topics	Readings, assignments
June 23	<p>Models of leadership: Contingency and transformational</p> <p>Workshop: Designing collaborative structures in schools</p>	<p>➤ M&G chapter 5 & 7</p> <p>➤ Leithwood & Sun (2012) -- The Nature and Effects of Transformational School Leadership...</p> <p>RR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penuel et al. (2010) – Alignment of informal and formal supports...
June 25	<p>Politics in organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How is power manifest in schools? ➤ French & Raven, The bases of social power ➤ Power dependence theory 	<p>➤ M&G chapter 8</p> <p>➤ Salancik & Pfeffer (1977) – Who gets power...</p> <p>RR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jackson & Marriott (2012). The interaction of principal and teacher instructional influence.... <p>Bring draft of critique 2, due June 27th</p>
June 30	<p>The true meaning of organization culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional bureaucracy • Organizational culture • Schein, Defining organizational culture • Martin, Three faces of culture 	<p>➤ M&G chapter 11</p> <p>RR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Nelson & Guerra (2013) – Educator beliefs and cultural knowledge...
July 2	<p>Uncertainty and ambiguity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision making under loose coupling • Decision making as deterministic 	<p>➤ M&G chapter 9</p> <p>➤ Weick (1976) – Educational organizations as loosely coupled systems</p> <p>➤ Cohen, March, and Olsen (1972) -- A garbage can model of organizational choice</p> <p>RR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somech (2010) – Participative decision-making in schools <p>Annotated bib 1-6 due</p>

	Topics	Readings, assignments
July 7	Organizations as copycats ➤ Institutional, Neo-institutional theory	➤ M&G chapter 13 ➤ Powell & DiMaggio (1983) - The iron cage revisited ➤ Meyer & Rowan (1977) – Institutionalized organizations... RR: • May & Supovitz (2011). The scope of principal efforts to improve instruction.
July 9	Organizations from an extreme macro view: Population ecology	➤ M&G chapter 14 RR: • Sun et al. (2013) – How external institutions penetrate schools... Annotated bib 7-12 due
July 14	Applying org theory ➤ Core leadership practices in schools	➤ Neumerski. (2013). Rethinking instructional leadership... ➤ Terotsky (2014); From a managerial imperative... RR: • Schechter & Qadach (2012). Toward and organizational model of change...
July 16	Poster presentation and peer review: Research problem and rationale	
	Research Problem and Rationale paper due July 20 (post to Taskstream)	

Student Co-Teaching Schedule

Co-teaching is linked to “reading research” (RR) assignments in the class schedule. Below is the schedule of co-teaching that we have set up. Co-teaching is an opportunity to bring **creativity** and **engagement** to our doctoral classroom. Ideally, leaders can distribute study questions ahead of time. For class, plan an engaging activity that will last approximately **30-45 minutes**.

Date	Article	Discussion Leader
June 4	Sinden, Hoy & Sweetland (2004) – Enabling school structure...	Bauer
June 11	Trujillo (2014) – The modern cult of efficiency...	
June 16	Adams (2014) – Collective trust...	
June 18	Arsen & Ni (2012). The effects of charter school competition	
	Klar & Brewer (2013). Successful leadership in high need schools...	NONE – Use this paper for critique 1
June 23	Penuel et al. (2010) – Alignment of informal and formal supports...	
June 25	Jackson & Marriott (2012). The interaction of principal and teacher instructional influence....	
	Mayer et al. (2013). Negotiating site-based management...	NONE – Use this paper for critique 2
June 30	Nelson & Guerra (2013) – Educator beliefs and cultural knowledge...	
July 2	Somech (2010) – Participative decision-making in schools	
July 7	May & Supovitz (2011). The scope of principal efforts to improve instruction.	
July 9	Sun et al. (2013) – How external institutions penetrate schools...	
July 14	Schechter & Qadach (2012). Toward and organizational model of change...	

Papers 1 & 2: Critique of Research Articles
40 Points (20 points each)
Due: June 20 & June 27

Overview

As scholars using published research to bolster your arguments, it is important that you become a discerning reader. The purpose of these two papers is to give you opportunities to analyze and criticize published work both in terms of the contribution the work makes to the knowledge base and methodology. We intend that the feedback we provide will help you to hone your criticism skills.

Tasks

1. Read the article assigned for the critique. Each article is related to the theory we are studying and has been selected from recent, top-quality journals. Carefully read the article with an eye toward understanding the contribution the work makes to the knowledge base and the methodological soundness of the work.
2. Write a critique of the article in terms of its usefulness to scholars. Include in your critique a discussion of the structure of the paper; the value of the research question(s) addressed; the appropriateness of the methodology used to address the question; and the reasonableness of the claims made regarding the conclusions. Be certain to begin your critique with an introduction that draws the reader into your paper and ends with a **clear thesis** for your paper. The thesis must establish your burden of proof for the paper.
3. Conclude your paper with a re-statement of your thesis and a brief discussion of the implications of your critique in terms of policy and practice.
4. Your critique should be approximately 7 double-spaces, typewritten pages.

Assessment Rubric for Critique of Research Articles

	Exceeds Expectations (4 points)	Meets Expectations (3 points)	Approaching Expectations (2 points)	Falls Below Expectations (1 point)
<u>Introduction (15%)</u> Introduction orients the reader to the purpose of the paper and introduces the article you are reviewing.	Introduction describes the paper critiqued, the purpose of the critique itself, and foreshadows significant findings through the thesis.	Introduction provides an adequate description of the paper critiqued and purpose of the critique itself.	Introduction is vague and does not adequately orient the reader to the paper.	Introduction is either missing or insufficient; there is little consideration of reader's perspective.
<u>Research topic & review of literature (20%)</u> Review addresses the appropriateness of research questions posed and the adequacy of the review of literature provided in the paper.	Extensive discussion of research questions, importance of topic for theory and practice. Considerable discussion of the merits of the literature review and organization of the review.	Adequate treatment of research questions, importance of topic for theory and practice, and adequacy of the literature review.	Superficial treatment of topic, research questions, importance. Superficial discussion of the merits of the literature review.	One or more of the elements of this criterion are missing and/or confusing.
<u>Research design (20%)</u> Review summarizes and deals with the quality and technical appropriateness of the methodology used to conduct the study.	Extensive analysis of the methods used, including consideration of research design; subjects; procedures, instruments; & limitations Appropriateness of design for addressing research questions is discussed.	Adequate analysis of the methods used in the study (subjects, procedures, instruments, limitations, etc.) and their appropriateness for research questions.	Superficial or incomplete critique of the methods used in the study and their appropriateness for research questions.	Analysis of methods used is missing or incomplete.
<u>Data & findings (20%)</u> Critique discusses the quality of the presentation of findings.	Extensive critique of the research findings in terms of presentation and appropriateness; some discussion of alternative ways of presenting data and/or any gaps or inaccuracies in presentations of findings	Adequate discussion of the research findings in terms of presentation, appropriateness, and/or accuracy.	Superficial discussion of the research findings in terms of either presentation, appropriateness, and/or accuracy.	Discussion of findings is missing or incomplete.

<p><u>Conclusions (15%)</u> Paper closes with a restatement of the thesis, a brief summary of the critique, and implications of the critique.</p>	<p>Conclusion follows logically from the body of the paper and is persuasive. It summarizes main points made in the critique, including whether the conclusions are reasonable; whether the research questions were answered; and the implications of the study for policy and practice</p>	<p>Adequate conclusion, including brief summary and implications for policy and practice. Conclusion is not necessarily persuasive.</p>	<p>Conclusion merely summarizes paper content and does not provide implications.</p>	<p>Critique ends without a discernable conclusion.</p>
<p>Mechanics and APA (10%) Your written work should always represent you as accurate and precise.</p>	<p>Nearly error-free, which reflects clear understanding APA format and thorough proofreading .</p>	<p>Occasional grammatical errors, questionable word choice, and minor APA errors.</p>	<p>Errors in grammar and punctuation, but spelling has been proofread. Difficulty conforming to APA rules.</p>	<p>Frequent errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation , and APA format.</p>

Paper 3: Annotated Bibliography Entries

20 points

Due: July 2 and July 9

Overview

An annotated bibliography is a tool that helps you sift through existing research on a question that interests you and organize the knowledge that you are gaining by reading this literature. Creswell (2009) refers to this as “abstracting studies.” This writing assignment has the following goals:

1. To give students practice reading and organizing research literature;
2. To provide students an opportunity to determine how, or in what way(s) research studies they identify inform the research questions they are interested in pursuing; and
3. To allow students to begin to identify constructs they may need to include in the conceptual framework they propose to use in conducting their research.

Tasks

To complete this writing assignment, follow the steps below:

1. Using the specific research question(s) you identified as the focus of your work, identify research literature that you believe may inform your study. Note that the expectation here is that you focus on empirical research (broadly construed, i.e., not limited to any particular type of design), rather than opinion pieces or the like.
2. Select pieces that you believe to be highly relevant to your research. [PLEASE try to prepare annotated entries for work that you believe has promise to inform your research; this means that you might scan many times the number of sources you eventually include. Part of the skill set you are building here is the capacity to identify useful work.]
3. For each piece, write a one-page entry that includes the following:
 - Bibliographic citation in APA format
 - A statement summarizing the problem being addressed
 - A statement summarizing the purpose of the paper
 - A brief statement of the methodology used (sample, population, subjects; design; analytic approach)
 - A summary of key results
 - Your assessment of the strengths and/or weaknesses of the paper (in general, and/or for your purposes)

In the end, your twelve (12) entries should provide you with a good deal of information about research that may form the foundation of your Research Problem and Rationale paper.

The paper must be formatted in accordance with APA requirements. All non-original ideas and quotations must be properly cited and a full list of references must be included at the end of the paper. (The title page and reference list are not part of the page count.) The reference list must include only sources that have been cited in the text.

Assessment Rubric for Annotated Bibliography

	Exceeds Expectations (4 points)	Meets Expectations (3 points)	Approaching Expectations (2 points)	Falls Below Expectations (1 point)
Bibliographic entries - content (40%) The annotated entries are well-written, balanced abstracts that are powerfully written to include relevant assessments of the merits of each piece.	Annotated entries provide a clear and concise summary of each research source. Each entry includes an overview of the research (including method and findings); and an assessment of its utility.	Annotated entries provide a summary of each research source. Each entry includes a brief overview of the research and an assessment of its utility, but may be lacking in specificity.	Annotated entries provide a general overview research sources, but lack detail or are missing significant elements needed to make the entries useful.	Annotated entries are severely lacking in detail, rendering them of little use
Bibliographic entries - focus (10%) The sources abstracted should clearly relate to the research question(s) posed.	All entries clearly and specifically relate to the research question.	Most entries relate clearly to the research question.	Most entries relate only generally to the research question.	The connection between annotated entries and the research question is difficult to discern.
Bibliographic entries -- quality (20%) Sources selected should be from high-quality, credible sources (i.e., generally peer reviewed journals).	Sources are well balanced, including predominantly original research pieces from high-quality, credible sources.	Sources are balanced, but are not focused predominantly on original research from high-quality sources.	One or more entries are included from questionable sources, reflecting largely opinion pieces rather than original research.	Entries are dominated by material from questionable sources; a review of research is not evident.
Bibliographic entries -- quantity (10%)	Twelve completed annotated entries are presented.	Only 11 completed entries are presented.	Only 10 completed entries are presented.	Fewer than 10 annotated summaries are presented.
References (10%) Each entry should have a complete citation in APA format.	References are complete and presented in APA format.	References include 1-3 errors (APA format or incomplete information).	References include 4-6 errors (APA format or incomplete information).	References include more than 6 errors in format or omission of required information.
Mechanics (10%)	Nearly error-free which reflects clear understanding and thorough proofreading	Occasional grammatical errors and questionable word choice	Errors in grammar and punctuation, but spelling has been proofread	Frequent errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation

Paper 4: Research Problem and Rationale
20 points
Due: July 20th

Overview

This paper requires students to establish a research focus. It serves as a precursor to a statement of research problem that would be appropriate for a dissertation proposal or dissertation. As with all other papers in this course, the Research Problem and Rationale has a thesis and supporting arguments that are intended to persuade the reader. This time, however, the topic is your own research. Most important, this paper requires extensive literature support to demonstrate how you have situated your thinking in established theory and empirical research.

Many of the articles and books we have provided for this course may be useful to you in your development of this paper. It is also true that what we have provided will miss the mark for many topics that interest our students. Students should expect to spend at least some time during the semester searching for sources relevant to their own research interests. A good strategy would be to explore the reference lists of articles and books we have assigned to check for sources that seem to come closest to your research focus.

Tasks

1. Write an introduction that orients the reader to the type of research you wish to conduct. The introduction must include a question (or set of questions) that guides your thinking about your topic. This could be a viable research question, but we are not yet holding you to that standard. The introduction must also include a thesis statement that explains why it is important to conduct a study within your topic.
2. The body of your paper begins with a statement of purpose, answering the question: What is it you wish to learn about your topic? The purpose may be supported with literature citations if others have pursued or recommended a similar purpose, but it may not be possible or appropriate to support the purpose with literature.
3. The majority of the body should focus on significance, the “so what?” question that all researchers must answer. It is usually helpful to think in terms of research (or academic) significance and practical significance. How would the study contribute to both scholarship and practice?
4. The final portion of the body should be a listing of potential research questions that flow logically from your statement of purpose and significance. Be inclusive and imaginative. This is a list you should want to carry forward and refine for portfolio 3 and beyond.
5. Conclude your paper with a restatement of your thesis and brief discussion of the implications of your potential study. Be sure to include discussion of gaps in the literature you have been able to locate and read up to this point. What should be the next steps in your work?
6. Your literature review should be no more than about 8 pages, and must include citations and a reference list in APA format.

Assessment Rubric for Research Problem and Rationale

	Exceeds Expectations (4 points)	Meets Expectations (3 points)	Approaching Expectations (2 points)	Falls Below Expectations (1 point)
<u>Introduction (10%)</u> Introduction orients the reader to the purpose of the paper—a discussion of your intended research focus.	Introduction draws the reader into the paper effectively. The thesis is clear and analytical., dealing directly with significance, and requires demonstration through coherent arguments and support from published literature.	Introduction orients the reader to the paper. The thesis is apparent, though not entirely clear. It may be more descriptive than analytical. The thesis may not be clear about significance.	Introduction explains what is in the paper, but lacks a clear and analytical thesis.	Introduction is weak. The paper lacks a clear thesis.
<u>Purpose (25%)</u> It is important to explain to the reader what you wish to study.	Purpose is clear and compelling and well supported by published literature, if possible. Purpose is explained from multiple perspectives (e.g., practical and academic) in a logical and persuasive manner.	The purpose of the research is clear and engaging.	The purpose is apparent, but confusing.	Purpose is missing or unclear.
<u>Significance (25%)</u> It is important to explain to the reader why it is meaningful to pursue your chosen topic.	Significance is clear and compelling and well supported by published literature. Significance is explained from multiple perspectives (e.g., practical and academic) in a logical and persuasive manner, and significance is clearly linked to purpose.	The author weaves together persuasive arguments regarding the significance of the topic that follow logically from the stated purpose.	Significance is apparent, but not well supported by literature and/or seems unrelated to purpose.	Significance is unclear or missing.
<u>Potential Research Questions (15%)</u> Brainstorming research questions is an effective means for articulating research interests.	The list of potential research questions is inclusive and stimulating. The questions are clearly and persuasively linked to purpose and significance.	A reasonable set of questions is presented. The questions clearly follow from purpose and significance.	The list of questions is brief and not very imaginative. Links to purpose and significance may not be clear.	The list of questions is inadequate.
<u>Conclusion (15%)</u> Every paper should conclude in a manner that both summarizes the current work and anticipates future work.	The conclusion begins with a restatement of the paper’s thesis in new language. After a very brief summary of the paper’s main points, the conclusion broadens out to discuss the direction of the study and future literature needs to support purpose and/or significance.	The conclusion summarizes the content of the paper well and restates the thesis in a manner that seems to flow logically from the body of the paper. The future direction is apparent.	The conclusion merely summarizes what has come before. The thesis may be stated in the same words as at the beginning or it may be missing from the conclusion.	The paper fails to conclude properly.
<u>Mechanics, and APA style (10%)</u>	The paper is error free.	The paper contains few errors and is consistent with APA style.	The paper has several errors.	The paper has numerous errors.