Guidelines for Qualitative Research Proposals

Please adhere strictly to the following format when preparing your qualitative research proposal. Each section must demonstrate clarity, scholarly rigor, and alignment with qualitative research principles.

1. Working Title

Your research title should evolve from a general topic to a specific issue, incorporating the study's context and the qualitative methodology used. It does not have to be final, but it must provide a clear direction.

***Example**: Exploring the Lived Experiences of Senior High School Teachers in Integrating Computer Applications into Mathematics Instruction: A Phenomenological Study in Metro Manila*

2. Background of the Study

Establish the context and relevance of your topic. Review literature from at least two scholarly sources to demonstrate your understanding of the field. Discuss the socio-cultural, historical, or institutional background of your research problem.

***Example:** Technology integration in education has gained momentum, particularly in mathematics instruction (Roblyer & Doering, 2014). According to Johnson (2020), computer applications enhance student engagement and support differentiated instruction in math.*

3. Research Gap

Identify what is missing or underexplored in existing literature. Support your gap with at least one scholarly citation. This section should transition logically from your background discussion.

***Example:** While numerous studies highlight the benefits of ICT in education, there is limited qualitative research on how senior high school teachers in the Philippines experience integrating these tools in math instruction (Cruz, 2021).*

4. Problem Statement

Clearly define the problem you are addressing, grounded in literature and real-world observations. Provide at least two references to demonstrate that the problem is recognized in scholarly discourse.

***Example:** Despite the push for ICT integration, many teachers face institutional and pedagogical barriers (Torres & Santos, 2020; Department of Education, 2019). There is a need to explore teachers' experiences to inform relevant support mechanisms.*

5. Purpose Statement

In at least three sentences, articulate what the study intends to explore or understand. Mention the qualitative approach, the participants, and the expected contribution to the field.

Example: *The purpose of this phenomenological study is to explore the lived experiences of senior high school teachers in integrating computer applications into mathematics instruction at selected senior high schools in Metro Manila. At this stage in the research, the integration of computer applications will be generally defined as the intentional use of digital tools, platforms, and software to enhance the teaching and learning of mathematical concepts.*

6. Research Questions

Formulate central qualitative questions. These should be open-ended and exploratory, aligned with your purpose and chosen research design.

Example:

1. *What are the lived experiences of senior high school teachers in using computer applications for math instruction?*
2. *What challenges do the senior high school teachers encounter in using computer applications for math instruction?*
3. *How do senior high school teachers describe their experiences?*

7. Theoretical Framework

State the theory or conceptual model guiding your study and provide at least one scholarly source. Explain how this framework informs your research focus, data collection, and interpretation.

Example*:* *This study is guided by the Technological Pedagogical Content Knowledge (TPACK) framework (Mishra & Koehler, 2006), which provides insight into the intersections of content, pedagogy, and technology in teacher practice.*

8. Significance of the Study

Describe who will benefit from the study and how. Address academic, practical, institutional, or societal contributions your study will offer.

Example*:* *This research will benefit educators, school administrators, and policymakers by highlighting real-life teacher experiences. It can guide ICT-related training and policy reforms in the senior high school curriculum.*

9. Methodology

Justify the use of qualitative research. Explain how qualitative inquiry aligns with your questions and research paradigm (e.g., interpretivism, constructivism).

***Example**: A qualitative research approach is suitable as it allows for an in-depth understanding of human experiences. It aligns with the interpretivist paradigm and is appropriate for exploring subjective perspectives.*

10. Research Design

State the specific qualitative design (e.g., phenomenology, case study, grounded theory). Justify your choice by citing scholars and aligning the design with your questions and purpose.

***Example**: This study employs a phenomenological design to understand the essence of teachers' experiences with computer applications. Phenomenology is appropriate for capturing deep, personal insights (Creswell, 2013).*

11. Research Setting

Describe in rich detail the context in which the research will take place. Include geographic, institutional, demographic, and cultural aspects that shape your participants' experiences.

***Example**: The study will be conducted in selected senior high schools in Metro Manila that have access to computer laboratories and digital teaching platforms. These schools vary in terms of student population and access to resources, offering diverse insights.*

12. Sample

Detail the characteristics of your participants, the number of participants expected, and inclusion/exclusion criteria. Justify your sample size based on qualitative principles like saturation.

***Example**: The sample will consist of 10–12 senior high school mathematics teachers from both public and private schools in Metro Manila. Participants must have at least one year of experience integrating computer applications in their instruction.*

13. Sampling Procedure

Explain your use of purposive sampling. Describe how you will identify and recruit participants who can provide rich, relevant data based on your criteria.

***Example**: Purposive sampling will be employed to select teachers who have been using computer applications in math instruction for at least one year. These participants are best positioned to share relevant experiences.*

14. Data Collection Methods

Specify the tools and techniques you will use (e.g., interviews, focus groups, observations). Describe the process of how data will be gathered, recorded, and managed.

***Example**: In-depth semi-structured interviews will be conducted via Zoom. Each interview will last 45–60 minutes and will be audio recorded with permission.*

15. Data Analysis Framework

Identify your data analysis approach (e.g., Thematic Analysis by Braun & Clarke, 2006). Describe the analytic steps and how they connect to your research questions.

***Example**: Braun and Clarke's (2006) thematic analysis will be used. The steps include: (1) familiarization with data, (2) generating initial codes, (3) searching for themes, (4) reviewing themes, (5) defining and naming themes, and (6) producing the report.*

16. Evaluative Criteria for Quality

Use Lincoln and Guba's (1985) criteria for trustworthiness: credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability. Outline specific strategies like member checking, audit trails, and thick description.

***Example**: Lincoln and Guba's (1985) framework will guide the evaluation: credibility (member checking), transferability (thick description), dependability (audit trail), and confirmability (reflexive journaling).*

17. Reflexivity

Reflect on your identity as a researcher, your positionality, and how your beliefs, background, and values influence your study. Describe strategies for reflexivity throughout the research process.

***Example**: As a former mathematics teacher and current graduate student, the researcher acknowledges personal biases about technology in education. A reflexive journal will be maintained to monitor subjectivity.*

18. Ethical Considerations

Explain how you will ensure ethical compliance including voluntary participation, informed consent, and confidentiality.

***Example**: Informed consent will be secured from all participants. Confidentiality will be maintained, and ethical approval will be obtained from the NEU Research Center.*

19. Submission Reminders

- Follow APA 7th edition for all citations and references.
- Proposal word count must be between 2,500 and 3,500 words.
- Submit your research proposal to: **https://forms.gle/QQ92inac6zeaGhYW7** or scan the QR code below: