

RESEARCH PROJECT (RSP441q)

Welcome to RSP441q: Research Project. This is your syllabus for the course even though there are no classes. By this time, you have picked an advisor. Your advisor will also follow this syllabus and the Guideline while helping you through the research process.

The intention of the research project is to familiarize you, the student, with the process and steps of conducting research. This includes problems and obstacles that might arise in designing and implementing your research tool. The project is also intended to familiarize you with project management skills such as working with frameworks, limitations, and time restraints.

Your research topic must be relevant to midwifery in a direct way. You will research your topic using established and current literature. Through your *Review of the Literature*, your Topic will evolve into a *Topic/Thesis/Hypothesis Statement* that must be original in nature. Your *Topic/Thesis/Hypothesis Statement* should provide new insight into a known midwifery topic or open up a new topic to midwifery. This is a statement/sentence, **not** a question, which will appear in your *Introduction*.

Once you arrive at your *Topic/Thesis/Hypothesis Statement*, and your advisor approves it, you will begin designing and implementing your *Research Design and Tool*, the original component of your Research Project. You will test your tool, and once refined and approved, you will use it in the real world. This *Research Design and Tool* is not intended to be statistically significant. In fact, you are limited to using a small n (number) factor. Your n is restricted to:

- Minimum of 5 to a maximum of 10 completed surveys or questionnaires
- Minimum of 3 to a maximum of 5 personal interviews
- Minimum of 10 to a maximum of 15 case studies/files
- Design and teach one (1) class -not a series or weekend workshop
- Or a combination of the above tools that does not exceed any maximum limit
e.g. 3 surveys with 1 interview

Your paper is a minimum of 15 pages: single sided, doubled spaced with $\frac{3}{4}$ inch margins, using a 10-12 pt. standard, non-decorative font (e.g. Times, Arial, Helvetica). The narrative of your paper should not exceed 30 pages. It must include:

- **Cover Page** —with advisor's original signature
- **Introduction** —with Topic/Hypothesis statement
- **Review of the Literature** — Summary of current research from experts and includes definitions of all terms
- **Research Design** — Who, when, where, and how
- **Research Findings** — Analysis of the data you collected
- **Recommendations** — A recommended plan of action(s) based on findings
- **Discussion** — Need for further study, new or open questions, problems with your process or that arose, etc.
- **Conclusion** — Must answer (prove/disprove) your Topic/Hypothesis statement
- **References** — in AMA style
- **Appendix(cies)** — Includes supporting and supplemental materials

The final completed copy of your paper must be bound in a report cover type binding. A complete bound copy of your research paper will be kept in the library. If you want two (2) complete copies with original signatures, you are responsible for providing both copies with all materials included.

In order to receive a passing grade, all Guideline components must be completed sequentially, as listed on the Guideline, with your advisor's signature/initials. Your final paper must be perfect. It must follow correct compositional rules with correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Your advisor is not required or intended to be your proofreader and grammarian. Your advisor may chose to assist you in this manner or may require you to have and use writing, grammar, and/or spelling guides.

Research Project, like all classes, is intended to be completed within one term. An "Incomplete" will only be given if your whole project is 80% complete when grades are due. This translates to a complete 1st draft, or the equivalent as deemed by your advisor. You may file for Special Circumstances if your Research process was interrupted by an act of the universe, a serious illness, etc. If you do not complete your Project within one term or qualify for an Incomplete or Special Circumstance, then you will have to re-register and re-take the class and will have to pay again. You will also have to re-arrange for an advisor. With their agreement, it can be the same advisor.

(Cover Sheet Example)

HOW MIDWIFERY STUDENTS SURVIVE THEIR TRAINING

Susan J. Student

Birthingway College of Midwifery
Winter 2006

Must be advisor's original signature
Approved by Brilliant T. Advisor

On
