

## **M.Ed. in Special Education, Advanced Studies**

### **NCATE Assessment # 1 Evidence of knowledge of content and pedagogy in the field of specialization**

#### **SPED 629 Current Trends and Issues in Special Education**

##### **Chapter 1 Thesis Paper Rubric**

The purpose of this final project is to apply the knowledge and skills you have learned in this class to create Chapter 1 of your research thesis. Included in Chapter One will be the identification of a research topic, development of a research question, rationale and background needed for the thesis.

Listed below are the basic components for the first chapter needed for class.

1. Title Page **(5 points)**

2. Table of Contents Page **(5 points)**

3. Chapter 1: Introduction: Minimum of 10 pages and no longer than 15 pages all inclusive. All papers need to include these following second level topic headings.

A. Statement of the Problem – **(15 points)**

- Succinctly state the problem that your thesis is going to address.
- Present relevant information about why this is important.
- Does the problem pose significance for education?
- Will the problem present the data that explains previously unexplained facts?
- Will the problem serve as a point of departure for the project or study?

B. Background and Need. **(25 points)**

The background is used to introduce your topic or subject. In general terms, it explains what your study will address. Things to keep in mind when writing the background and need.

- Why is this important area?
- What has been the historical development of the topic?
- Have there been significant investigations, studies, or reports concerning the topical area?
- What is the current status of the area of your interest?
- Use citations throughout to support your study.

C. Purpose of the Project: Based on the above background information, explain the purpose of the study. Explain what you are going to accomplish and why you chose to do it. The statement of the problem might begin with the words, “The problem of the study is....” Or “This project will address the problem of...” or “This project will answer these questions. This section should only be one or two paragraphs in length. **(15 points)**

D. Research Questions/Hypothesis **(15 points)**

- Given the background above, you carefully state the hypothesis (ses) that will be tested in your thesis
- Can you answer your questions in a 6 month research study?

- Are the questions too narrow or too broad? Meaning can your questions is answered by using a survey, some type of program that allows for comparison of groups, modifications using some type of statistical measurement?

E. Limitations/Delimitations – not needed for this class

F. Definition of Terms – not needed for this class

G. References **(20 points)**

Have you followed APA guidelines? Are your references the same font as your narrative?

(Do you have a minimum of 15 references?)

**Total \_\_\_\_\_/100 points**

Dimension	Target (3)	Acceptable (2)	Unacceptable (1)
1. Title Page and Table of Contents	Clearly depicts a title page and table of contents for Chapter 1	Omitted one of these pages and did not create them correctly.	Omitted both of these pages.
2. Statement of the Problem	Clearly depicts a statement of the problem for the thesis.	Somewhat depicted the problem statement but it was not clear.	Unclear problem statement.
3. Background and Need	Clearly discussed the background and need for Chapter One	Somewhat discussed the background and need for Chapter One	Unclear or missing background and need.
4. Purpose of the Project	Clearly stated the purpose of the project for Chapter One of the thesis.	Somewhat stated the purpose of the project.	Unclear or missing purpose of the project.
5. References	Clearly cited references using APA format.	Several errors in referencing using APA format.	APA format was not used or was used with mistakes.
<b><u>Scoring Criteria</u></b>	<b>50-30points = Target</b>	<b>29-15 points = Acceptable</b>	<b>&lt; 15 points = Unacceptable</b>
<b><u>Rubric Key</u></b> Element 1. Mechanics/writing Element 2. Research Element 3. Learner Knowledge Element 4. Learner Knowledge Element 5. APA References/mechanics			

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**Rubric  
NCA**

**TE Assessment #1 Knowledge**







