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Independent Study Feedback
May 12, 2017

Title

The title should relate to the topic of the paper. This research may prepare you for writing your knowledge essay for Portfolio 3 and ultimately your dissertation, but for the current paper, think about what title would capture the content.

Introduction

In the introduction, you seek to provide a statement of the problem. You indicate the purpose of the paper is to provide a review of the literature on how to effectively develop emergent literacy skills, specifically print referencing, alphabetic knowledge, and vocabulary knowledge. In stating the problem, you note that children who experience difficulty when developing emergent literacy skills may be at risk because these skills are the foundation for developing children's reading skills. You also note factors that may contribute to difficulties in developing emergent literacy skills.

As I read this section, I wondered how you would describe the problem in just a sentence or two. For example, is poverty the problem you are trying to address? Is the problem that reading scores are lower in 2015 than in 2013? Or is the problem that emergent literacy skills are important to later success in reading and children are experiencing challenges in developing these emergent skills? Or, perhaps, the problem is something else. It is important to gain clarity in what the problem is that you want to address.

Once you have identified the problem in a clear and concise manner, you then need to explore what the literature says about the problem. It is important to synthesize the literature to generate a case for your argument. For example, on page 1, you have an entire paragraph that cites only Justice and Ezell (2001). Instead of writing a summary of what they say about emergent literacy knowledge, it is important to gather information across a variety of sources and then synthesize across the studies to make your case.

Also, consider how you will organize your introduction to build your case for the significance of the problem. Each paragraph should focus on elaborating on a point. Paragraphs should build upon each other and lead to a conclusion that lets readers now that based on all of this information, research is needed that addresses this problem. In other words, by the end of the introduction, it should be apparent why you did a search related to vocabulary and shared storybook reading. It should also be evident how shared storybook reading fits into the development of the problem statement.

Theoretical Framework

In this section, storybook reading is introduced along with socio-cultural theory. Before arriving at this section, readers should already be aware that your focus is on shared storybook reading or they will wonder why you are discussing theory related to shared storybook reading. Also, consider how to discuss the theory in a way that integrates the theory with the information you are sharing. For example, instead of stating, "The theoretical framework for storybook reading

is...,” you might begin by describing shared storybook reading and explain how the theory or theories support the various aspects of shared storybook reading as you continue to discuss the process. You do this some as you discuss the adult-child interactions and the scaffolding adults do.

Importance of Storybook Reading

Consider how you are going to specifically label storybook reading. For example, I can read a storybook individually or as a shared experience. It seems that you are focused on shared storybook reading rather than individual storybook reading. The label you use needs to reflect this. Previously, we discussed avoiding the term storybook reading intervention. When adults read with children, it is not commonly thought of as an intervention. It is a practice that is promoted rather than an intervention.

It seems that the information in this section could be moved to the introduction as part of stating the problem. You are saying that shared storybook reading appears to contribute to developing emergent literacy skills. So, why is more research on shared storybook reading needed? What is the problem you are trying to solve by conducting additional research on shared storybook reading? In other words, what has not been researched that you plan to research?

Print Referencing, Alphabetic Knowledge, and Vocabulary

You located and cited some interesting studies. As noted in your portfolio review, it is time to take the next step in your development and synthesize information across studies. Read across all of your annotations and ask yourself, “What are these studies telling me?” “What did they find?” “How are the findings across studies similar?” “How are the findings across studies different?” “What does each study contribute to knowledge of the topic?” “What are the gaps in knowledge based on these studies?”

In the alphabetic knowledge section, you make a step towards synthesizing by building a paragraph based on several studies. The next step is to consider how these findings create a body of knowledge about what is known and to determine what still needs to be explored. Consider what the findings mean to you and then use the studies to support your assertions. This means looking across studies to support the points you are trying to make.

Your vocabulary section is much longer than the other sections. This made me wonder if this area is of more interest to you. As you move forward, you will need to narrow your topic and decide what you specifically want to investigate. It might be that vocabulary development will be your focus. Consider what knowledge has been developed across the studies you discussed and how you can synthesize across the studies.

Overall

It is apparent that you put time and effort into reading and summarizing studies related to shared storybook reading. Your summaries of the studies were quite detailed. This contributed to your paper being more of an annotated bibliography than a synthesis of the literature. As you move forward, you will need to look across studies and develop interpretations of the findings that result in the generation of new knowledge. Another next step will be to work on deciding on a

focus for your work and developing research questions. In doing this, you will also be able to gain more clarity on how you are going to focus your work.

Please see additional comments written on the paper and take time to attend to APA formatting issues noted throughout the paper. Attention needs to be given, for example, to citing sources, use of commas, use of hyphens, how numbers and percents are written, and the need for paragraphs.

It is also important to note that as part of this independent study, you created IRB materials and have been in communication with a school system about a pilot study you developed. These efforts also contribute to your final grade.