HOD 1250 Research Action Plan

This form is to assist you in formulating your research and keeping track of your progress for the research paper.

Step 1: Lay the Foundation

- **Select your Topic:**

  I want to research ______________________________________________________

  because I want to find out the following and inform my reader on

  ______________________________________________________

  ______________________________________________________

  How is this topic related to a core theory of human development? (Examples: Bronfenbrenner’s ecological model-IWM, Erikson’s stages of development, Marcia’s notion of identity development/moratorium)

  ______________________________________________________

  ______________________________________________________

- **Define your Research Question:**
  
  ______________________________________________________

  ______________________________________________________
Step 2: Select the Best Sources

- Based on the *P.S.T. Literature Blocks*, what types of sources will you need for the following sections of the paper?

  1. **Definition of Core Concepts:**

    - Peer-review journals
    - Newspapers
    - Magazines
    - Books/Book Chapters
    - Websites
    - Primary sources

    - Specialized texts
    - Other__________

  2. **Importance of the Issue:**

    - Peer-review journals
    - Newspapers
    - Magazines
    - Books/Book Chapters
    - Websites
    - Primary sources

    - Specialized texts
    - Other__________

  3. **Primary Positions:**

    - Peer-review journals
    - Newspapers
    - Magazines
    - Books/Book Chapters
    - Websites
    - Primary sources

    - Specialized texts
    - Other__________

- What databases will you need to utilize to find appropriate peer-reviewed literature?

  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________
Step 3: Conduct Searches and Retrieve Results

- What search strategies were most effective in locating appropriate sources?
- What sources yielded the best results that will support your research question? Were they primary, secondary or tertiary?
  
  _________________________________________________________________
  _________________________________________________________________

- Locate the citations found! *Use ACORN.*

Step 4: Evaluate the Sources

*All resources, including peer-reviewed items, need to be evaluated before being used.*

► Examine each resource for the following:

☐ Authority- is the source reputable?  ☐ Bias- what point of view is presented?  ☐ Currency- is the information current?

☐ Quality- is the information useful?  ☐ Relevance- does the information meet your needs?

Step 5: Cite the Sources

Citing sources is essential to good and ethical scholarship. Always cite the information you have used completely and accurately.

Keep track of all of your citations as you select each resource! *Use APA citation style, 6th edition.*