

ECDE7012 Suggested Essay Structure

Assessment Component 1

Select an issue in education that you wish to explore. Presenting a short literature review to justify why the issue is important to the community; establish clear research question(s), aims and objectives for the research.

Written Assignment: 3200 words

Suggested Content	Approximate Word Count
Aim, focus and purpose of the research What is the purpose/aim of your research? What is the issue that you want to address in your research? Why are you interested in this? Why is the issue important? Who would benefit from the information that you intend to research?	200
Overview of relevant literature This section should be based on your research topic. It should consist of a discussion of key literature that relates to your study / research question. Remember to: • Summarise and synthesise: give an overview of the main points of each source and combine them into a coherent whole; • Analyse and interpret: don't just paraphrase other researchers. If possible, discuss the significance of the findings in relation to the literature as a whole; • Critically evaluate: mention the strengths and weaknesses of your sources, consider the author(s) and their expertise; • Write in well-structured paragraphs: use transitions and topic sentences to draw connections, comparisons and contrasts. You should refer to literature wherever possible.	1500
Your Research Study What is the relevance of the literature that you have selected to your own study? How has the literature led you to form your research question(s)? Do you hope to fill a gap in the current literature? Are you taking the research of another author further within your own context? What is/are your research question/s? What are the aims and objectives of the research?	1500
References	

Assessment Component 2

Describe and critically evaluate the philosophical worldview that underpins your research, justifying why it is appropriate. Present a plan for an appropriate data collection process and associated analysis of the data, reflecting on its strengths and limitations.

Written Assignment: 3200 words

Suggested Content	Approximate Word Count
Research Context Opening sentence - What is the purpose/aim of your research? What is the issue that you want to address? What is your research question?	100
Research Design / Methodology This section could include: Within which philosophical worldview are you working? For example, positivist, interpretivist/constructivist, transformative/critical or pragmatic. What is this and why does this matter? Are you using a quantitative / qualitative / mixed-method approach? Why? Does your choice of philosophical worldview/paradigm have an impact on the approach to data collection that you will take? You could also discuss researcher positionality in this section. For each element, justify your choices by citing literature. You should refer to literature wherever possible.	800
Research Methods / Tools Write about the research methods that you have chosen that will give you sufficient data to answer your research question. Explain your observation schedule / interview questions / questionnaire questions / other method. Have you used a specific structure? (closed or open questions, tick boxes etc.); a specific scale? (e.g. Leuven) For each method , discuss these points, justifying the choices that you have made: • What does the research literature tell us about the method? • What are the strengths and limitations of the method? You should also discuss: -your intended sample - ethical Considerations You should refer to literature wherever possible.	1300

Data Presentation and Analysis Method(s) Explain the method(s) that you will use to report your data. Refer to relevant literature to support your decisions. For each method, discuss these points, justifying the choices that you have made: • What does the research literature tell us about the method? • What are the strengths and limitations of the method? You should refer to literature wherever possible.	800
Conclusions Critically examine the work that you have planned for your research study; for example: • Do you think that the methods of collecting data are reliable? • Do you think that the methods of collecting data are valid? • Do you think that the findings would be generalisable?	200
References	

Assessment Component 3

Complete a draft of the UWTSD Ethics Form for your proposed research project; ensure that you consider consent /assent processes for **all** your participants.

Written Assignment: 1600 words [equivalent]