

# Foley's Recommended Dissertation Outline-1/13

## Chapter 1 Introduction (usually 10-20 pages)

Context Setting and History of the Issue

Statement of the Problem-*usually a paragraph serving as an umbrella statement*

Research Questions (Hypotheses)-*delineating the specifics of the statement of problem at the conceptual level (abstract)*

Significance of the Study (*to the research field and practice*)

Definition of Terms for this study-*should be cited from a source such as USDE*

Delimitation and Limitations-*validity and reliability issues both inside the study and to which audience the study results may apply*

Chapter Summary

## Chapter 2 Review of Literature (usually 40-50 pages)

General context literature-*arranged either chronologically or by theme*

Themes of the research (*each section can be drawn from your research questions and the research methodology to be used—this allows some literature to appear in more than one section*)

Minimum of 80 sources, 90% of these within the last 7 years

Chapter Summary

## Chapter Three Research Methods (usually 20-30 pages)

### Qualitative Perspective Used

Research Questions (Hypotheses) *in operational form-demonstrates the method and the variables to be used*

Researcher's Role-*observer, collector, interviewer, etc.*

Sources/Subject/Population/Sample-*very specific details and citations*

Data Collection Methods- *very specific details and citations*

Data Analysis Methods- *very specific details and citations*

Validity and Reliability- *very specific details and citations*

Ethical Considerations- *very specific details and citations*

Chapter Summary

### Quantitative Perspective Used

Introduction

Research Questions

Population

Data Collection

Data Analyses

Summary

#### **Chapter 4: Findings (usually 15-30 pages)**

General introduction

Each research question *should have a section with narrative, interview transcription, quantitative results field notes, tables, figures, and graphs when appropriate and required*

Chapter Summary

#### **Chapter 5: Conclusions (usually 20-30 pages)**

Introduction

Statement of Problem

Discussion and conclusions drawn from findings-arrange by research question

Implications for Practice *tie these back into your findings and/or literature*

Implications' for Further Research *tie these back into your findings and/or literature*

Chapter Summary

*Each item mentioned under a chapter heading should appear as a subheading in the chapter*