



EDUC 890 Class 3

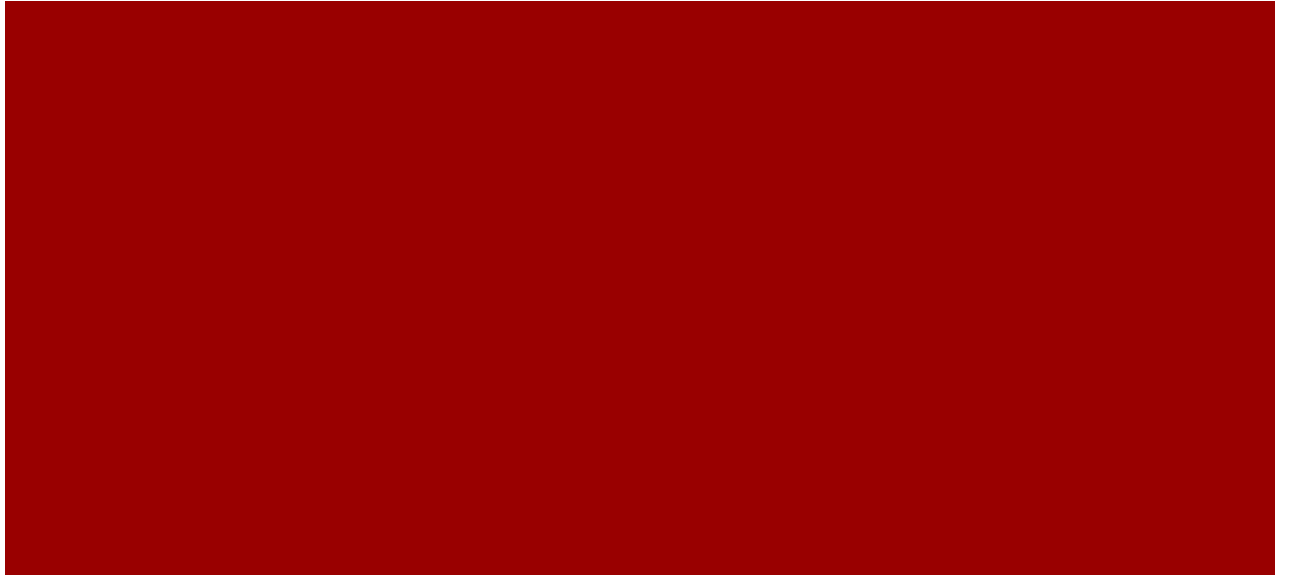
APA Review

Chapter 3—Statements of the problem

Assignment 2 discussion



Some- thing from the library



- Please work in pairs to identify something you want to learn more about during the library visit.



APA References

- Journal article, with errors:

Scruton, R. (1996). The Eclipse of Listening. *The New Criterion*, 15(3), 5-13.

Check:

1. Capitalization
2. Italicization
3. Punctuation

- Journal article, without errors:

Scruton, R. (1996). The **eclipse** of **l**istening. *The New Criterion*, 15(3), 5-13.



APA References

- Book, with errors:

Calfee, R. C. & Valencia, R. R. (1991). *APA guide: preparing manuscripts for journal publication*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

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- Book, without errors:

Calfee, R. C., & Valencia, R. R. (1991). *APA guide: **P**reparing manuscripts for journal publication*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.



APA References

- Dissertation retrieved from database, with errors:

Rashed, D.H. (2008). *A Case Study of International ESL Learners'*

Perceptions of Technology Use in English Language Learning (Masters

thesis). Retrieved from ProQuest Dissertations and Theses database.

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- Dissertation retrieved from database, *without* errors:

Rashed, D.H. (2008). *A case study of international ESL learners' perceptions*

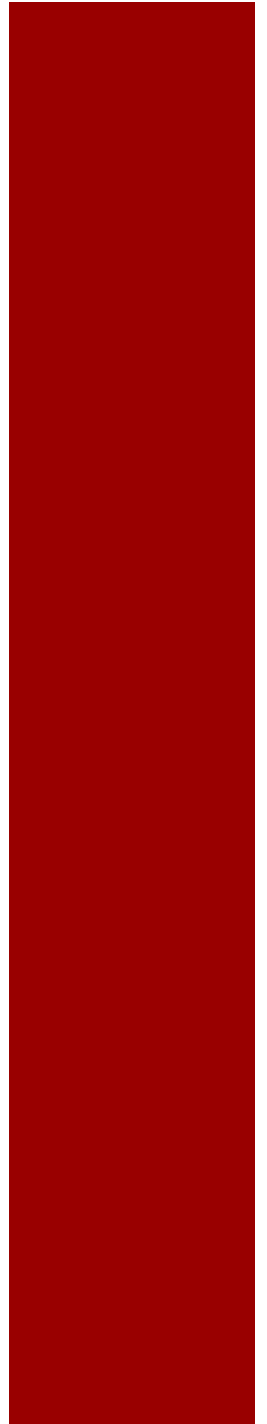
of technology use in English language learning (Master's

thesis). Retrieved from ProQuest Dissertations and Theses database.

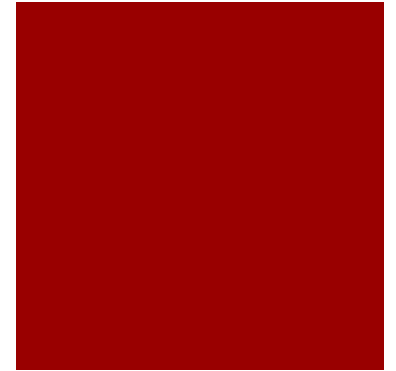
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Chapter 3

**Statements of the problem:
Identifying why a study is important**



Statement of the problem



- Argument that justifies why the research was needed
- Located in opening paragraphs
- Attempts to generate interest in the study
- Strong, logical argument that the article is worth your attention



What *IS* a research problem?

- Controversy, issue, concern
- ***Not something a researcher solves, but addresses, to help policy makers & practitioners negotiate the problem***
- Real-world problems
 - Impact of global warming on ecosystems
 - Increasing violence in schools
 - Low levels of physical activity in schools leading to obesity
 - *What else? What's a problem that might guide a research study you might do? Discuss with a neighbour.*

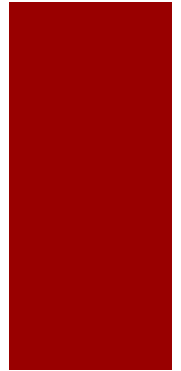
Mapping problems to research types

Quantitative

- Problems that call for explanations of...
 - the effect of a treatment or intervention;
 - the extent that groups differ in terms of variables
 - the trends for variables in a large group

Qualitative

- Problems that call for exploration of...
 - how a process unfolds;
 - the meaning of a phenomenon
 - the complexity of a case
 - the stories of individuals' lives



Topic, Problem, Purpose (p. 82)



- Topic
 - What is the study about?
 - Physical activity (PA)

- Problem
 - What controversy, issue, concern needs to be addressed/solved?
 - Little PA among youth, leading to obesity & ill health

- Purpose
 - What will the researcher do?
 - Study PA opportunities in middle schools & associated factors

Topic, Problem, Purpose (p. 83)



- Topic
 - What is the study about?
 - Bullying
- Problem
 - What controversy, issue, concern needs to be addressed/solved?
 - Bullying by teachers, and the serious consequences for bullied students
- Purpose
 - What will the researcher do?
 - Explore teachers' understandings of bullying by teachers

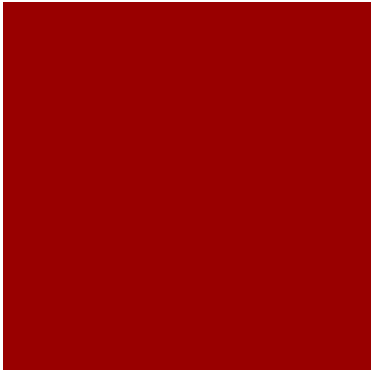


Group work 1

- In pairs, find a research article of interest and identify:
 - Topic
 - Problem
 - Purpose

...then email your analysis to me

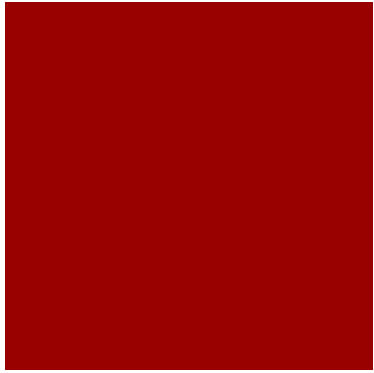




Group work 1 results...

- Topic- Teacher education
- Problem-" The reflexive practice of the teacher and the relationship with pupil's learning is almost non-existent in the official initial teaching training programs"
- Purpose- To determine and understand professional development programs already in place for teacher training





Group work 1 results...

- Topic: Law students' well-being
- Problem: There is a lot of anecdotal evidence showing that law students experience an overall decline in their well-being throughout the course of law school. This continues into their professional careers.
- Purpose: To provide longitudinal, empirical evidence that hopefully identifies the "root causes of the many problems in the legal profession."





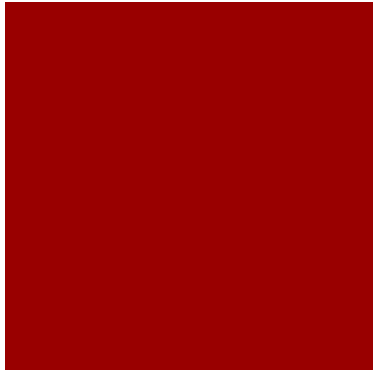
Group work 1 results...

- Topic: This study examined integration through the eyes of secondary agriculture teachers and others, specifically those engaged in aquaculture education.

Problem: Vocational educators have been criticized for providing “overly specific training” in structures that segregate vocational and academic education (Grubb, Davis, Lum, Plihal, & Vol.41 Issue 2, 2000 Morgaine, 1991). Grubb et al (1991) also stated that academic educators suffer criticism for developing curriculum that lacked opportunities for students to connect learning to “real world” events.



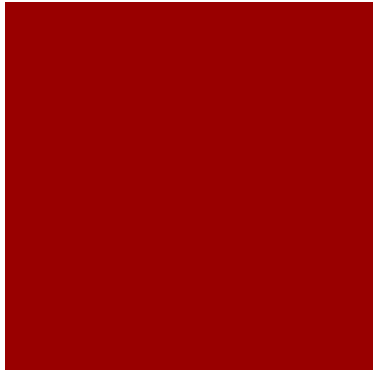
Purpose: Objectives for this portion of the study were to 1) Determine how many aquaculture teachers integrate their curriculum with other areas, 2) Identify examples of integration, 3) Describe integration as related by teachers and students, and 4) Identify how it is being implemented and its success.



Group work 1 results...

- **Topic**: the hidden curriculum
- **Research problem**: the content of the hidden curriculum in the clinical learning environment conflicts with what is taught in the formal curriculum in the classroom, and students must navigate these differentiations, especially if and when they may encounter gaps in professionalism and ethical issues
- **Purpose of study**: to examine medical faculty and students' perceptions of psychological, moral, and spiritual challenges during medical training in caring for critically ill patients

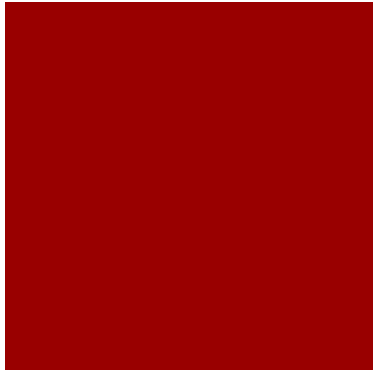




Group work 1 results...

- **Topic:** ESL Accent within Korean-English Speakers
- **Problem:** Is the accent produced by Korean, English language learners fixed or can it change over time, additionally, is it limited within English Language learners depending on country of residence.
- **Purpose:** To compare foreign accent produced by immigrated Native Korean speaking children and adults over time.





Group work 1 results...

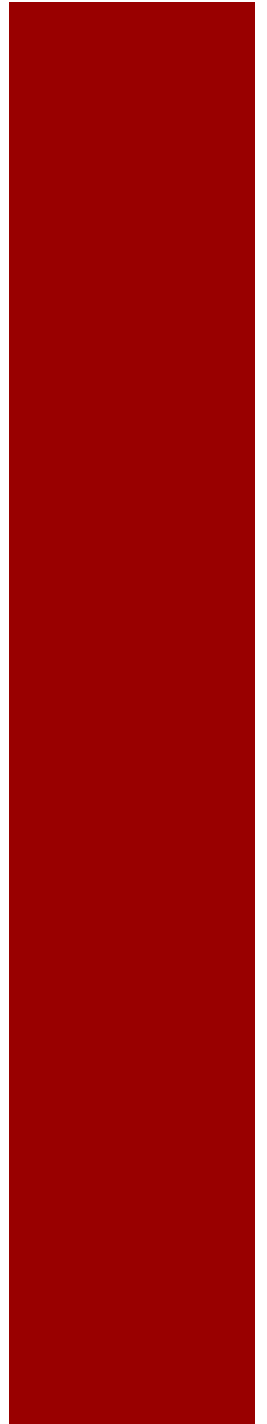
- -Topic: L2 reading development-
- Research Problem: to establish the connection between L1 reading attitude and L2 reading achievement.
- -Purpose: to investigate how reading attitudes of adolescent learners of English toward their native and target languages are related to and affect each other, and what other factors play a role in shaping L2 reading attitudes and influencing L2 reading achievement.

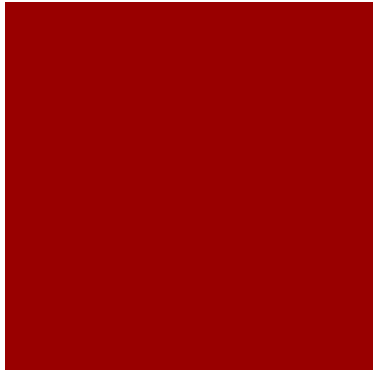


Assignment 2

- **Introductory components**
- **10%**
- **Due *next class***
- **Questions??????**
- **<http://benjaminbolden.ca/teaching/educ-890/>**

Topic
Problem
Justification
Deficiency
Audiences





Topic

- Piquing interest with opening sentences...
 - Statistical data
 - Provocative question
 - Clear need for research
 - Powerful quote
 - Key definition

- *See examples p. 87, then*
 - *a) pick a topic and*
 - *b) write an opening sentence for an imaginary research report (alone or in pairs)*



Problem (types)

- A problem...
 - that is a major concern
 - that affects many lives
 - that has serious consequences
 - that is a current issue for practitioners
 - that arises from conflicting evidence in the literature
 - with what is known about a topic



Justification (that it matters)

- Evidence **from the literature**, demonstrating existence and magnitude of problem
 - As Bartel and colleagues discovered, “85% of music teachers surveyed had never taught composing or improvising” (1999).
- Evidence from **workplace** or **personal experience**
 - “...as the mother of a teenager with cerebral palsy, my life has become a case study in...courtesy stigma...I have learned that stigma is a much more complex phenomenon than I originally anticipated”



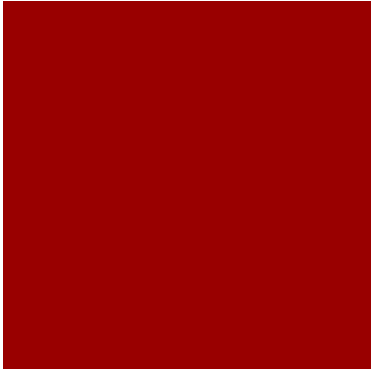
Deficiency in knowledge

- What we *do not know*, specifically, about the research problem, e.g.
 - There is a gap in knowledge that needs to be filled
 - There are past experimental results that need to be replicated
 - There are past results that need to be extended (go deeper)
 - There are voices that have not been heard from
 - There is a lack of knowledge about how to improve practice



Audiences

- Who will potentially read and benefit from the study?
 - Practitioners
 - Policy makers
 - Other researchers
 - Others?
- Usually located near end of introduction section



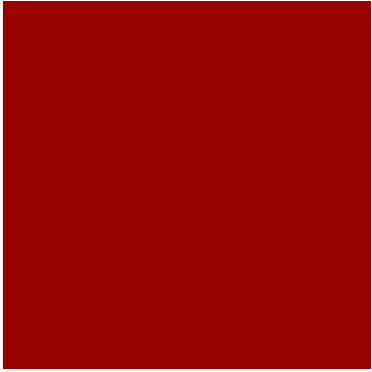
Group work 2

- In pairs, look at the example problem passage on p. 92 and identify:
 - Topic
 - Problem
 - Justification
 - Deficiencies in knowledge
 - Audiences



...**don't** look at the answers on the bottom of p. 91

...but **do** check out the summary and examples on the top of p. 91...



Group work 2 Answers!



- Topic:
 - ***tobacco use***
- Problem:
 - ***premature death due to teenage smoking***
- Justification:
 - ***statistics re: magnitude of problem***
 - ***summary of prior research re: problem***
- Deficiencies in knowledge:
 - ***little research on social context of high schools***
 - ***little research exploring students' views***
- Audiences:
 - ***researchers, administrators, teachers***

Homework

1. Assignment 2
2. Read Ch. 4

