



EDUC 890 Class 3

APA Review

Chapter 3—Statements of the problem

Assignment 2 discussion



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 listening**. *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.

Check:

1. Capitalization
2. Italicization
3. Punctuation

- Book, *without* errors:

Calfee, R. C., & Valencia, R. R. (1991). *APA guide: **Preparing** 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.

Check:

1. Capitalization
2. Italicization
3. Punctuation

- Dissertation retrieved from database, *without* errors:

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

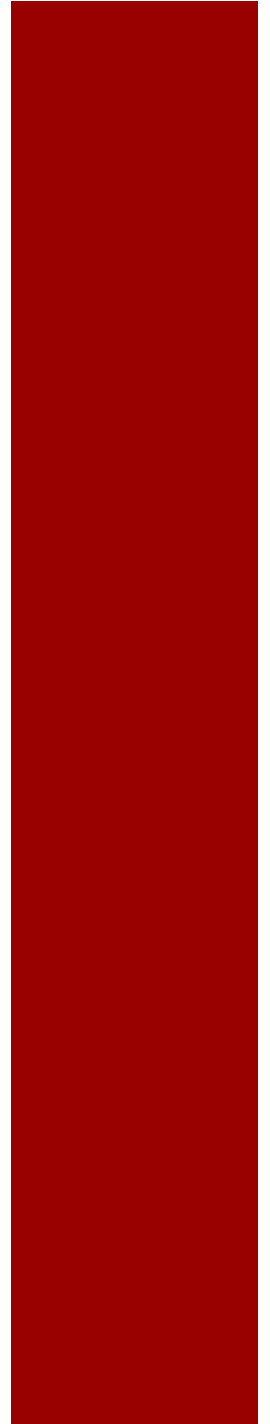
of technology use in English language learning (Master's

thesis). Retrieved from ProQuest Dissertations and Theses database.

(UMI No. 1456443)

Chapter 3

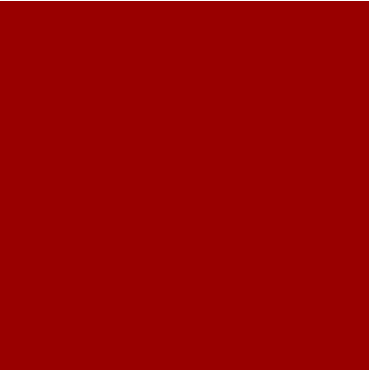
**Statements of the problem:
Identifying why a study is important**



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.*

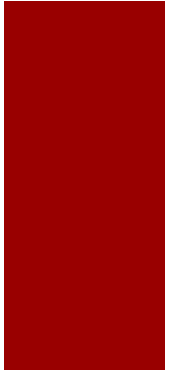
Mapping problems to research types

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

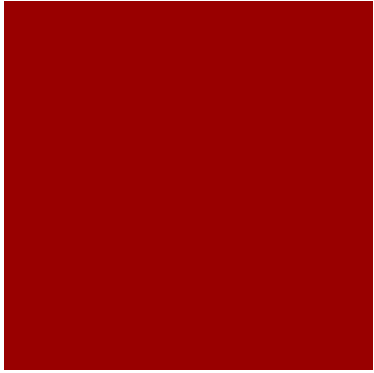


Group work 1

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

...then email your analysis to me

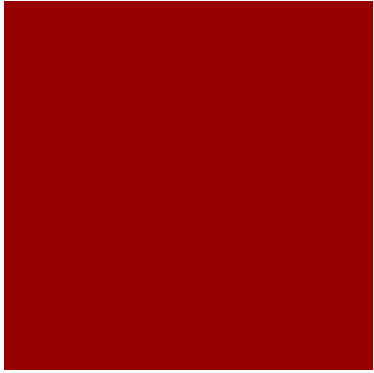




Group work 1.1 results...

- Topic: Topic: Formative assessment in the classroom
- Problem: Teachers struggle to incorporate different methods of assessment in their classrooms
- Purpose: To understand teachers' current understanding/use of formative assessment strategies in order to inform future teacher education reform and in-service professional development

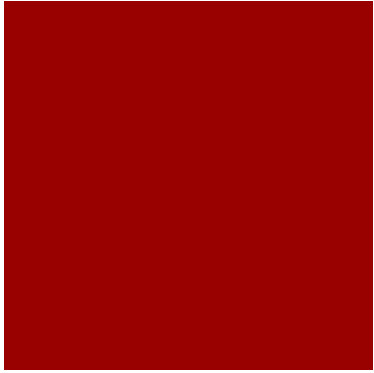




Group work 1.2 results...

- Topic: Arts in education
- Problem: Need to have professional development for educators; arts integration not being taught
- Purpose: "The purpose of this study is to consider the impact of an AI workshop on teacher attitudes towards the incorporation and subsequent implementation of AI to improve differentiated instruction including students with learning disabilities"

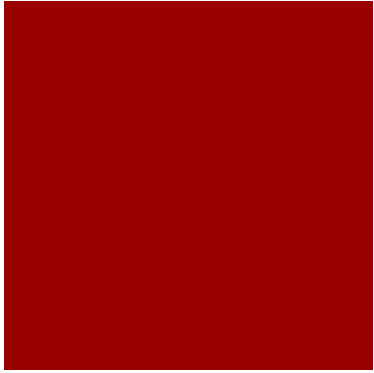




Group work 1.3 results...

- Topic: anxiety
- Problem: effect of anxiety on language performance
- Purpose: the purpose of this study was to better understand the nature and effect of anxiety in the context of high-stakes testing for Chinese university students learning English as a foreign language

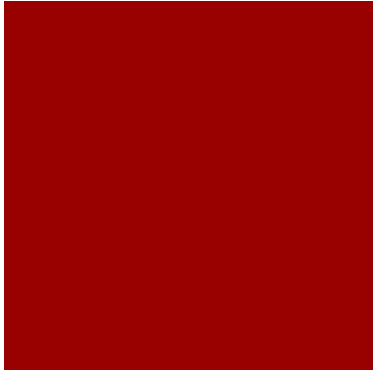




Group work 1.4 results...

- Topic: French immersion language instruction
- Problem: Students lack motivation to read, despite having the necessary skills.
- Purpose: To see the impact of seven different strategies on motivating the readers.

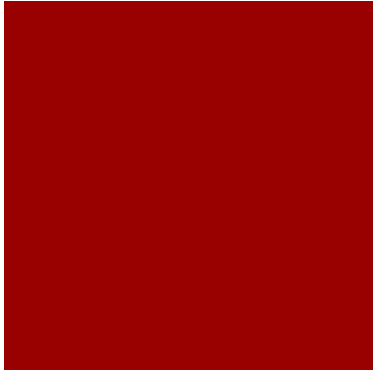




Group work 1.5 results...

- Topic: French immersion language instruction
- Problem: Students lack motivation to read, despite having the necessary skills.
- Purpose: To see the impact of seven different strategies on motivating the readers.





Group work 1.6 results...

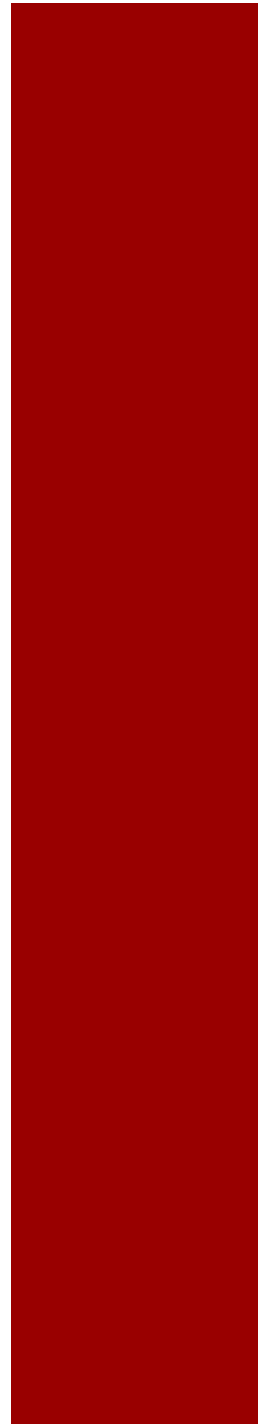
- Topic: self-regulation
- Problem: does self-regulation predict academic achievement (high SRL leads to high academic achievement and vice versa)
- Purpose: Investigate the impact an early year child's ability to self-regulate has on their academic achievement later on



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”



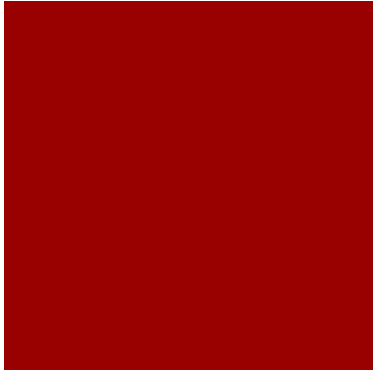
Deficiency in knowledge

- 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



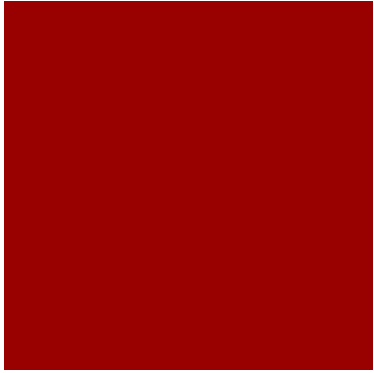
Group work 2

- 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

