

DELEJ Dissertation Rubric

A rubric score of 1 or 2 in any section of the dissertation will require revision and resubmission of that section.

	Missing	Developing	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
Introduction	The introduction is missing one or more components.	The introduction does not fully introduce the topic, justify the need for the study, and/or explain the study purpose. A problem statement may not be included or does not support the study. Research questions may be unclear.	The introduction introduces the topic, somewhat justifies the need for the study, and mostly identifies the study purpose. A problem statement is included that identifies the problem and mostly supports the need for the study. Research questions are identified.	The introduction clearly introduces the topic, justifies the need for the study, and identifies the study purpose. A problem statement is included that clearly identifies the problem and supports the need for the study. Research questions are clearly identified and explicitly connected to the study purpose, problem, and methodology.
Literature Review	The literature review minimally addresses relevant literature. The literature review does not support the study.	Some relevant literature is explained, but may not be synthesized or explicitly connected to the study. Limitations of and/or gaps in the existing literature may or may not be included. The literature somewhat justifies the need for the study.	Relevant literature is mostly explained and synthesized. Its connection to the current study is mostly explicated. Limitations of and/or gaps in the existing literature are outlined and connected to the study. The literature review mostly justifies the need for the study.	Literature review is comprehensive and relevant literature is clearly explained and synthesized. Its connection to the current study is explicated. Limitations of and/or gaps in the existing literature are comprehensively outlined and deeply connected to the study. The literature review clearly justifies the need for the study.
Theoretical/Conceptual Framework	There is no theoretical framework.	The theoretical/conceptual framework is somewhat described	The theoretical/conceptual framework is described and some justification for choice of framework is provided. The	The theoretical/conceptual framework is clearly and comprehensively described, and justification is provided for choice of

		and may or may not be applied.	theoretical framework is applied to shape the study and/or make sense of the findings.	framework. The framework is utilized to shape the study and make sense of the findings.
Research Design/ Methodology (including, but not limited to, study purpose, design, methodology, methods, data collection, sample, variables, data analysis, procedures, validity and/or trustworthiness, limitations)	Research design may not be clearly explained and/or does not include most of the relevant information needed to describe how the study was conducted. Rationale is not provided for design choices. Design is not tied to research questions. The project does not use appropriate research methods to answer the research questions.	Research design is somewhat explained and includes some of the relevant information needed to describe how the study was conducted. Rationale may not be provided for design choices. Design is somewhat tied to research questions. The project sometimes uses appropriate research methods to answer the research questions.	Research design is explained and includes most of the relevant information needed to describe how the study was conducted. Some rationale is provided for design choices. Design is tied to research questions. The chosen research methods are appropriate for the research questions and study purpose	Research design is thoroughly explained and includes all relevant information needed to describe how the study was conducted. Rationale is provided for design choices. Design is clearly tied to research questions. The chosen research methods are appropriate for the research questions and study purpose, and there is explicit justification for the chosen research methods.
Findings/Results	Findings section does not answer research question(s) or explain what was learned about the phenomenon under study. The findings section is not clear or well-organized. The findings	Findings section somewhat answers research question(s) and explains what was learned about the phenomenon under study. The findings section is not very clear or well-organized. The findings themselves may not be	Findings section answers research question(s) and explains what was learned about the phenomenon under study. The findings section is mostly clear and well-organized. The findings themselves are supported by the data. The findings are presented in a way that mostly aligns with the	Findings section answers research question(s) in a rich, descriptive manner with emphasis on what was learned about the phenomenon under study. The findings section is clear and well-organized. The findings themselves are supported by the data. The findings are presented in a way that clearly aligns with the norms and

	themselves are not supported by the data. The findings are not presented in a way that aligns with the norms and requirements of the study's methodology.	fully supported by the data. The findings may or may not be presented in a way that aligns with the norms and requirements of the study's methodology.	norms and requirements of the study's methodology.	requirements of the study's methodology.
Discussion	The discussion section transcends the data. Discussion does not connect findings to the prior research or to the theoretical framework.	The discussion section somewhat transcends the data and/or rarely connects the findings to prior research or to the theoretical framework.	The discussion is related to the research questions, and mostly supported by the data outlined in the findings section. Discussion connects findings to prior research and the theoretical framing.	The discussion is clearly related to the research questions, and fully supported by the data outlined in the findings section. The discussion connects the findings to prior research and the theoretical framing in a deep and meaningful way.
Implications/ Recommendations and Conclusion	The implications and conclusions are missing/there are no recommendations.	The implications/conclusions are somewhat explained, but may be unrelated to the research questions, or not supported by the data outlined in the findings section. There may or may not be recommendations for practice, policy, and/or future research.	The implications/conclusions are explained, related to the research questions, and mostly supported by the data outlined in the findings section. There are recommendations for practice, policy, and/or future research.	The implications/conclusions are clearly explained, related to the research questions, and supported by the data outlined in the findings section. There are clear recommendations for practice, policy, and/or future research.
Writing Conventions	The writing is not clear and organized. The	The writing is somewhat clear and organized. The project	The writing is mostly clear and organized. The project mostly adheres to standard	The writing is clear, organized, and adheres to standard conventions of

	project may not adhere to standard conventions of grammar, academic writing, and/or professional presentation.	sometimes adheres to standard conventions of grammar, academic writing, and professional presentation.	conventions of grammar, academic writing, and professional presentation.	grammar, academic writing, and professional presentation.
Formatting	APA format is not used. Does not use anti-bias language.	There are many formatting errors. Inconsistently uses APA style conventions to reduce bias in language	There are a few formatting errors. Generally adheres to APA style conventions to reduce bias in language	APA style is used correctly throughout. Consistently adheres to APA style conventions to reduce bias in language
IRB Approval (if applicable)	Study has not been approved by the IRB			Study has been approved by IRB
	Missing	Developing	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
Oral Defense of the Dissertation	Presentation missing key elements. Candidate did not adhere to timing requirements.	Presentation included most significant elements. Responded to questions. Candidate did not adhere to the timing requirements.	Presentation included most significant elements, conveyed in a logical, easy-to- follow format. Responded to questions. Candidate mostly adhered to the timing requirements.	Presentation included all significant elements, conveyed clearly in a logical, persuasive and easy-to-follow format. Responded to questions professionally. Candidate adhered to the timing requirements.