Portfolio Component #2: Problem Statement

ENG 113
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WHAT IS A PROBLEM STATEMENT?

In this assignment, I ask you to write a problem statement for your research portfolio. The problem statement identifies and defines the issue, problem, or reason that is inspiring your research and details why such research is meaningful and necessary. Further, it identifies the specific questions you will attempt to answer with your research.

THE ASSIGNMENT

Your 1-2 page problem statement should provide the necessary background for your research project. It should include 2 distinct elements

Statement of Problem & Rationale for Research

This section should clearly detail the motivation for your research. It should explain who is involved in the issue you are exploring, how they are affected by it, and what your research will bring to the situation.

This section might answer the following questions:

- What motivated me to choose this topic?
- How is the problem or issue I have identified negatively affecting my community?
- What are the benefits of gaining more information about an issue or of solving this problem?

Research Questions

This section should provide the *very specific* research questions that you will attempt to answer in your research and should discuss how you see the answers to these questions contributing to your research project*.*

Be advised, research question are NOT the questions you will ask your participants; they are the questions you want to answer about this problem or topic. Your discussion in this section should explain how each question directs your research and helps you collect the information you need to complete your research project. You will need to speculate about what types of information you will receive and how you will use it.

NOTE: Research questions need to be specific to the project you are working on. They also need to be researchable and measureable within the remaining weeks of the semester.

Organization

Your problem statement needs to answer 3 questions about your research: what, why, and how. Your problem statement should include

- An introduction to the problem/issue you're going to research that explains what the problem/issue is
- An explanation of *why* solving this problem is important to your community (how will the community benefit) that is supported by examples
- A list of at least 2 specific, manageable research questions that you will pursue to solve this problem/issue

PORTFOLIO

This is the second component of your Research Portfolio and will explain the need for your research and what your research will contribute to your community and to other communities. While this document will be revised, you cannot effectively design data collection instruments without well-designed questions that detail what kind of data you need and want, so you need to complete any major revisions to this document by **March 3**.

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, March 6	Problem Statement Due for Teacher Review (Moodle)
Monday, March. 27	REVISED Version for Workshop (Moodle)
Wednesday, Apr. 5	LAST DAY to Submit Revisions for Teacher Feedback (EMAIL ONLY)