

# Portfolio Component #2: Problem Statement

---

ENG 220

## THE ASSIGNMENT

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.

## CONTENT

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 answer the following questions

This section might answer the following questions:

- What motivated me to choose this topic?
- What are the gaps in the current research? What do we not know yet?
- What are the benefits of gaining more information about the topic I have selected? How will new information add to the scholarly conversation?

This section should also include citation of sources that show what research has already been done.

### 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 topic to bring new ideas or information to the scholarly conversation.* 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 topic/scholarly conversation you're going to address with your research and *why* this conversation is of interest to a scholarly community
- An explanation of the gap(s) that exist in current research and *why* that gap should be filled (how the scholarly community (and possibly other people) will benefit from new research into the topic) that is supported by examples
- A list of at least 2 specific, manageable research questions that you will pursue to attempt to develop new information to help fill the gap

## FORMAT

All essays in this class will be in APA format. APA format requires

- A title page
- A header with the a shortened version (50 characters or less) of the paper title in all capital letters on the top left of each page
- The page number on the top right of each page
- An abstract
- In-text citations (any time you use sources)
- A references page (any time you use sources)

APA Elements Required for this Paper	APA Elements Not Required for this Paper
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Title page</li><li>• Header</li><li>• Page Numbers</li><li>• In-text citations</li><li>• References Page</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Abstract</li></ul>

Help with APA format can be found here: <http://guides.franklin.edu/APA/overview>. There is a YouTube video at the bottom that will walk you through formatting the title page and following pages, including the References page.

## 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 22**.