**[TITLE OF DISSERTATION]**

[Candidate Name]

A Dissertation

Submitted to the Graduate Faculty of The University of Findlay’s College of Education in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

[Month Year]

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Committee Member

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**Abstract**

[Insert abstract text here. Limit to 250 words. State the problem, the mixed methods study design, types of participants and/or data sources, analysis, results, findings, and implications (APA, 2020).]

**Dedication**

[Insert dedication text here.]

**Acknowledgments**

[Insert acknowledgment text here.]

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**Chapter I. Introduction**

**Background of the Problem**

[A research problem is “an issue, topic, or question that motivates a study… [it] answers the question of why the results of the investigation would be of interest to the research community and how an investigation is linked to prior knowledge and research” (AERA, 2006, p. 33). Describe the context of your topic including relevant legislation, history, common practices, and recent changes in the field. State the importance of the problem with theoretical or practical implications. This section may convey barriers in the literature that suggests a need for both qualitative and quantitative data (APA, 2020).]

***Third Level Subsections (If Needed)***

**Fourth Level Subsections (If Needed).**

***Fifth Level Subsections (If Needed).***

**Rationale & Significance of the Study**

[The rationale logically describes why the study is justified. Provide the rationale for fit of design used to investigate the purpose (e.g., theory building, explanatory, developing understanding, social action, description, highlighting social practices). The significance describes the benefits that will occur as a result of the study. The benefits may be for people in certain roles, the profession, certain populations, or society in general. Provide a succinct review of relevant literature (APA, 2020) and make it clear how your study will contribute to this relevant literature (AERA, 2006).]

***Third Level Subsections (If Needed)***

**Fourth Level Subsections (If Needed).**

***Fifth Level Subsections (If Needed).***

**Purpose of Study**

[Specifically describe the major objective or intent of the study. State the three types of research objectives: qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods (order these goals to reflect the type of mixed methods design used). Describe why the approaches to mixed methods inquiry were combined (e.g., descriptive, interpretive, feminist, psychoanalytic, postpositivist, critical, post-modern, constructivist, or pragmatic) (APA, 2020, p. 106).]

***Third Level Subsections (If Needed)***

**Fourth Level Subsections (If Needed).**

***Fifth Level Subsections (If Needed).***

**Theoretical Framework**

[The theoretical framework describes how you conceptualize the problem, justify the research questions and research design, and it provides a lens through which the data will be analyzed. Describe the approach to inquiry (e.g., descriptive, interpretive, feminist, psychoanalytic, postpositivist, critical, postmodern, constructivist, or pragmatic) (APA, 2020).

***Third Level Subsections (If Needed)***

**Fourth Level Subsections (If Needed).**

***Fifth Level Subsections (If Needed).***

**Research Questions**

[Explain why your research questions are appropriate for your type of mixed methods research and show how they are tied to your purpose, objectives, and theoretical framework]

1. [Insert numbered text here.]

**Definition of Terms**

[Explicitly describe the key terms in your study. At a minimum all key terms in the research questions should be defined. Definition of terms should be research-based, nationally recognized and common throughout the literature (see professional organizations). When terms have multiple meanings in the field, be sure to include the definition that you will be using for the purposes of your study.]

*Term 1.* [Insert term definition here.].

*Term 2*. [Insert term definition here.].

*[Subsequent terms follow same format].* [Subsequent definitions of terms follow same format].

**Subjectivity & Researcher Positionality**

[Explicitly describe your prior experience with the topic as well as your assumptions, beliefs, and attitudes about the topic. **Only include information that is relevant to your particular study.** Describe your background in approaching the study, emphasizing your prior understandings of the phenomena under study and how your prior understandings of the phenomena under study were managed and/or influenced the research (e.g., enhancing, limiting, or structuring data collection and analysis. Prior understandings could include, but are not limited to, descriptions of your demographics, cultural characteristics, credentials, experience with phenomena, training, values, and/or decisions) (APA, 2020).]

***Third Level Subsections (If Needed)***

**Fourth Level Subsections (If Needed).**

***Fifth Level Subsections (If Needed).***

**Chapter II. Literature Review**

[Insert chapter introductory text here. Review the problem, purpose of the study, and the research questions. Review the body of literature that will be covered and identify the major topics of your review, all of which must relate to your research questions. The topics in your literature review should be clearly aligned to each of your research questions.]

**Topic 1**

[Insert text here.]

***Third Level Subsections (If Needed)***

**Fourth Level Subsections (If Needed).**

***Fifth Level Subsections (If Needed).***

**Topic 2**

[Insert text here.]

***Third Level Subsections (If Needed)***

**Fourth Level Subsections (If Needed).**

***Fifth Level Subsections (If Needed).***

**[All Subsequent Topics and Subtopics Follow Same Format]**

**Summary**

[Summarize what the literature says for each of the topics in the review.]

**Chapter III. Methodology**

[Insert chapter introductory text here. Review the research purpose and a brief description of the organization of the chapter. Chapter III descriptions should be “precise and sufficiently complete to enable another researcher, where appropriate, to understand what was done and, where appropriate, to replicate or reproduce the methods of data collection under the same or altered research circumstances” (AERA, 2006, p. 35). Read and adhere to APA Style Manual 7th Edition (2020) pages 105-108. Read and adhere to the AERA Standards for Reporting on Empirical Research (2006) pages 34-40.]]

**Research Questions**

[List your research questions. Note: your research questions and methodology must match what is in your IRB!]

1. [Insert text here.]
2. [Insert text here.]
3. [Insert text here.]
4. [Subsequent items follow same format.]

**Research Design**

[Justify why the mixed methods research design is appropriate for the study given the purpose, objectives, research questions, and theoretical framework. Identify the type of mixed methods design used and define it. Indicate the qualitative approach to inquiry and the quantitative design used within the mixed methods design type. If multiple approaches to inquiry were combined, describe how this was done and provide a rationale (e.g., descriptive, interpretive, feminist, psychoanalytic, postpositivist, critical, postmodern, constructivist, or pragmatic). Because mixed methods research is a relatively new methodology, provide a definition of it from a major reference in the field. Read and adhere to APA Style Manual 7th Edition (2020) pages 77-105 for the Quantitative and Qualitative standards for detail of rigor (APA, 2020).]

***Third Level Subsections (If Needed)***

**Fourth Level Subsections (If Needed).**

***Fifth Level Subsections (If Needed).***

**Participants & Sampling Technique**

[Provide a complete description of your participants including all the demographic data collected that might influence the data collected (age, sex, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, years of experience, grade level, etc.), numbers of participants (e.g., n=382), and other factors related to your study. Explain why these participants are appropriate for this mixed methods study. If this a sample population, explain how that sample was chosen. Explain why these participants are appropriate for this study. Describe sampling procedures for selecting participants including sampling method (e.g., purposive sampling methods, such as maximum variation; convenience sampling methods, such as snowball selection; theoretical sampling; diversity sampling) and inclusion/exclusion criteria. Describe the relationship and interactions between the researcher and participants relevant to the research process and any impact on the research process (e.g., was there a relationship prior to research, are there any ethical considerations relevant to prior relationships). Describe settings and locations of data collection. (APA, 2020). Read and adhere to the AERA Standards for Reporting on Empirical Research (2006) Sources of Evidence (pages 35-36).]

***Third Level Subsections (If Needed)***

**Fourth Level Subsections (If Needed).**

***Fifth Level Subsections (If Needed).***

**Ethical Considerations**

[Explain what potential ethical issues your study may potentially pose for participants or research population and what you did as a researcher to mitigate those risks. Describe institutional review board agreements, ethical standards met, and safety monitoring (APA, 2020). Read and adhere to the AERA Standards for Reporting on Empirical Research (2006) Sources of Evidence (pages 35-36).]

**Instrumentation & Data Sources**

[Describe your study instrument in detail, justifying its design according to the purpose, research questions, objectives, and theoretical framework. When data are collected from multiple sources, clearly identify the sources of qualitative and quantitative data, their characteristics, and the relationship between the data sets. State the data sources in the order of procedures used in the design type. A table of data sources aligned to the research questions, type of data, when data were collected, and from whom is most likely necessary (APA, 2020). Describe how your data sources were selected and how you acquired them including the time, duration, schedule, context, and focus of the data collection (AERA, 2006). Convey the extensiveness of engagement (e.g., depth of engagement, time intensiveness of data collection) and for interview and written methods indicate the mean and range of the time duration in the data-collection process. Describe questions asked in data collection, content of central questions, origin of questions, and form of questions (APA, 2020). Read and adhere to the AERA Standards for Reporting on Empirical Research (2006) Measurement and Classification (page 36).]

***Third Level Subsections (If Needed)***

**Fourth Level Subsections (If Needed).**

***Fifth Level Subsections (If Needed).***

**Data Collection Procedures**

[Describe step-by-step how you recruited participants (e.g., face-to-face, telephone, mail, email) and any recruitment protocols. Describe any incentives or compensation. Describe the process by which the number of participants was determined in relation to the study design and the rationale for decision to halt data collection (e.g., saturation) (APA, 2020). If appropriate, “describe the protocol for the administration of any instruments, the documents, records, or artifacts gathered and the ways in which they were identified” (AERA, 2006).]

***Third Level Subsections (If Needed)***

**Fourth Level Subsections (If Needed).**

***Fifth Level Subsections (If Needed).***

**Data Analysis**

[Describe the methods you used and how your data was analyzed for each method (qualitative and quantitative). Describe the methods and procedures used and for what purpose. For qualitative data analysis, explicate in detail the process of analysis, including a discussion of the procedures (e.g., coding, thematic analysis) following a principle of transparency. Identify whether coding categories emerged from the analyses or were developed a priori. Identify units of analysis (e.g., entire transcript, unit, text) and how unites were formed. Describe the process of arriving at an analytic scheme with illustrations and descriptions, if relevant (APA, 2020). For quantitative data analysis, include narrative explanation as well as summary table of research questions, variables, and statistical tests for quantitative studies. The procedures used for analysis should include what statistical analyses were conducted (APA, 2020).]

***Third Level Subsections (If Needed)***

**Fourth Level Subsections (If Needed).**

***Fifth Level Subsections (If Needed).***

**Assumptions**

[Explicitly describe what the researcher assumes to be true and does not question in the data analysis (e.g., all participants answered the survey truthfully, all teachers seek to improve their practice, etc.). Demonstrate that the claims made from the analysis are warranted and have produced findings with methodological integrity (APA, 2020).]

**Trustworthiness**

[Describe what steps you took to ensure your findings were valid and your conclusions are trustworthy. Demonstrate consistency with regard to the analytic processes (e.g., describe the development of a stable perspective, interrater reliability) or describe responses to inconsistencies. If alterations in methodological integrity were made for ethical reasons, explicate those reasons and the adjustments made (APA, 2020).]

***Third Level Subsections (If Needed)***

**Fourth Level Subsections (If Needed).**

***Fifth Level Subsections (If Needed).***

**Chapter IV. Results**

[Insert chapter introductory text here. Provide a brief overview of the chapter’s organization and content. In mixed methods research, indicate how the qualitative and quantitative results were “mixed” or integrated. Mixed methods typically include sections on qualitative results, quantitative results, and mixed methods results. For the qualitative results, demonstrate that findings are grounded in the evidence (e.g., using quotes, excerpts, or descriptions of researcher’s engagement in data collection). Demonstrate that the contributions are insightful and meaningful. Provide relevant contextual information for findings (e.g., setting of study, information about participants, interview questions asked). Present findings in a coherent manner that makes sense of contradictions or disconfirming evidence in the data (e.g., reconcile discrepancies, describe why a conflict might exist in the findings) (APA, 2020). Read and adhere to APA Style Manual 7th Edition (2020) page 103. For the quantitative results, for each research question, the procedures used for analysis should include what statistical analyses were conducted, the appropriateness of the statistical tests, descriptive and inferential statistics, considerations that arose in the data collection and analysis, and statistical results (AERA, 2006). Read and adhere to APA Style Manual 7th Edition (2020) pages 86-89.]

**Instrument Validity and Reliability**

[Describe how the instrument was pilot tested and how validity and reliability were established. See APA Style Manual 7th Edition (2020) pages 80-81 for additional validity and reliability requirements.]

***Third Level Subsections (If Needed)***

**Fourth Level Subsections (If Needed).**

***Fifth Level Subsections (If Needed).***

**Research Question 1**

[Explicitly describe the findings for this RQ in detail and include narrative summary of results as well as tables.]

**Research Question 2**

[Explicitly describe the findings for this RQ in detail and include narrative summary of results as well as tables.]

**Research Questions 3**

[Explicitly describe the findings for this RQ in detail and include narrative summary of results as well as tables if quantitative.]

**[Subsequent Research Question Results Follow Same Format]**

**Summary**

[Summarize your findings and explain the conclusions and recommendations based on the findings will be considered in Chapter V.]

***Third Level Subsections (If Needed)***

**Fourth Level Subsections (If Needed).**

***Fifth Level Subsections (If Needed).***

**Chapter V. Conclusions And Recommendations**

[Insert chapter introductory text here. Provide a brief overview of the chapter’s organization and content. Read and adhere to APA Style Manual 7th Edition (2020) pages 89-90 and 103-105.]

**Review of the Study**

[Review the purpose of the study, the research questions, the methods, and the findings. Be brief when you discuss the findings as you described them in detail in the last chapter and will draw some conclusions from the data in this chapter.]

***Third Level Subsections (If Needed)***

**Fourth Level Subsections (If Needed).**

***Fifth Level Subsections (If Needed).***

**Discussion**

[For each research question you will provide an in-depth interpretation of the results and then discuss the similarities and differences between reported results and the literature from Chapter II . Identify unexpected results and provide a credible rationale for your findings, connecting it to the literature, limitations, or other factors when possible. Describe the central contributions and their significance in advancing the discipline. Describe the types of contributions made by findings (e.g., challenging, elaborating on, and supporting prior research or theory in the literature describing the relevance) and how findings can be best utilized (APA, 2020). For the quantitative discussion, discuss generalizability of the findings taking into account the target population and other contextual issues (APA, 2020). “Where there is intent to generalize beyond the specifics studied, it is incumbent on the author to indicate the individuals, contexts, activities, data collections, and so forth (the domains) to which the generalization is intended to apply and (at least implicitly) those to which it may not apply (AERA, 2006, p. 38).

***Research Question 1***

**Fourth Level Subsections (If Needed).**

***Fifth Level Subsections (If Needed).***

***Research Question 2***

**Fourth Level Subsections (If Needed).**

***Fifth Level Subsections (If Needed).***

***Research Questions 3***

**Fourth Level Subsections (If Needed).**

***Fifth Level Subsections (If Needed).***

**[Subsequent research questions follow same format].**

**Conclusion**

[Your conclusion is a strong statement of what we know based on your research. It is founded on an integration of the study findings, analysis, interpretation, and synthesis. It must be supported by the findings for all of your research questions.]

***Third Level Subsections (If Needed)***

**Fourth Level Subsections (If Needed).**

***Fifth Level Subsections (If Needed).***

**Recommendations**

[Recommendations are clear, actionable steps that should be taken based on your findings. Explain what your research suggests about what the field or individuals in specific roles need to address or change.]

***Third Level Subsections (If Needed)***

**Fourth Level Subsections (If Needed).**

***Fifth Level Subsections (If Needed).***

**Limitations**

[Describe potential weaknesses of the study or the scope of the study. Identify the study’s strengths and limitations (e.g., consider how the quality, source, or types of the data or the analytic processes might support or weaken its methodological integrity). Describe the limits of the scope of transferability (e.g., what readers should bear in mind when using findings across contexts). Revisit any ethical dilemmas or challenges that were encountered, and provide related suggestions for future researchers (APA, 2020).]

***Third Level Subsections (If Needed)***

**Fourth Level Subsections (If Needed).**

***Fifth Level Subsections (If Needed).***

**Future Research Opportunities**

[Describe the unanswered questions that your study has generated and call for further studies based on these questions.]

***Third Level Subsections (If Needed)***

**Fourth Level Subsections (If Needed).**

***Fifth Level Subsections (If Needed).***

**References**

[Insert references here following APA format.]

**Appendix A**

[Insert text or item here.]

**Appendix B**

[Insert text or item here.]

**Appendix C**

[Insert text or item here.]