

EDUC 619
Topics and Issues in Literacy
Fall 2004

Janet L. Powell
Professor of Literacy Education
University Hall 418
760/750-4319
jpowell@csusm.edu

Office Hours:
Tuesday 4:30-5:30
Thursday 12:00-1:00
and by appointment

California State University San Marcos

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Mission Statement

The mission of the College of Education Community is to collaboratively transform public education by preparing thoughtful educators and advancing professional practices. We are committed to diversity, educational equity, and social justice, exemplified through reflective teaching, life-long learning, innovative research, and ongoing service. Our practices demonstrate a commitment to student centered education, diversity, collaboration, professionalism, and shared governance.

Required Text:

Publication *Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 2000
(5th edition). Washington, D.C.: APA.

Helpful Websites:

Guidelines for Human Subjects Review: <http://www.csusm.edu/research/IRB.htm>
Use the exempt form.

CSUSM Thesis Information: http://www.csusm.edu/graduate_studies/thesis_project.htm

CSUSM Library: <http://library.csusm.edu/>

Course Description: An exploration of developing issues in the field of literacy and its instruction. This course prepares students to write the first three chapters of master's thesis or project.

Assignments:

Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter will introduce your question or topic and explain why it is important to you and to the educational community. Explain what you hope to accomplish. Be very clear about your research question or curriculum project. Try to put your project or question in a theoretical context. On what theories/principles are you basing your project? What are your assumptions? What has informed your own thinking about this project? Definitions of terms must be very clear in this section. Do not assume that the reader knows what you mean when you use educational jargon. Everyone might not agree with your definitions, so you can define terms however you wish and call them operational definitions. If you use several terms that need defining, you may want to put a *Definition of Terms* subsection at the end of the chapter. The terms should be in alphabetical order, level four.

Chapter Two

Review of the Literature

This chapter will review what is currently known (and not known) about the topic. Where is the field of literacy in terms of what is happening with your topic? The review of the literature puts the project into perspective and lets the reader know why the project is of significance. 5. After you have completed your paper, you may need to go back and modify this chapter. It is fine to use books and various other sources, but *you must have at least 15 referred journal articles*. Use the following subheadings (level 3) in chapter two:

Introduction

Restate the question and purpose of your paper. Give an overview of this chapter.

Key word or phrase from the title of your project/question

From your question or project title, review what is known about key topics.

Key word or phrase from the title of your project/question

From your question or project title, review what is known about key words.

Conclusion

Summarize what you learned from the review of the literature.

Guidelines for Chapter Two:

1. Are there too many or too few quotes. It's okay to paraphrase and then cite an author (many times this is preferable). But every other line or so shouldn't be a quote.

2. How well does the whole chapter hold together? Does it all seem necessary? Could any part(s) be cut out?
3. Is there a clear and easy-to-follow organization? Your questions must help you develop the “chunks” of research or theory you’re using for your project. For example; all the literature on thematic curriculum, then the literature on accessing the curriculum, then the literature on using literature as the basis for learning the curriculum. Put together theorists and researchers who write about similar topics. Are large pieces of text broken up? Are there appropriate subheadings?
4. As much as possible find the original sources and cite them (rather than citing what someone else cited, or secondary sources).
5. After you have analyzed your data or completed your paper, you may need to go back and add literature that supports findings you didn’t expect.

Chapter Three

Methodology

Research/Project Designs and data collection” How will the research be conducted, or how will the project be constructed? What must be done in order for you to accomplish your goals? How will you collect data and how will you analyze it?

Use these subheadings for Chapter Three (these may need some modification if you are doing a project). If you are doing a **project**, this chapter will highlight the significant findings of Chapter Two and relate how you used those findings in your project.

Introduction

Restate the question and purpose of your paper. Give an overview of this chapter.

Design

Explain the methodology you used and why it was selected. If appropriate cite a textbook defining and describing your methodology.

Setting

Give the demographics of school district and the school, but do NOT name schools or districts; you may give them a pseudonym.

Subjects

Give details about how the subjects were chosen, who they are. How many males, females? What ages, ethnicity and grades are your subjects? Give as much information as possible.

Materials

Describe and cite all tests, books, or other materials you will be using and explain why they were selected. If any of your materials are teacher made they must be in the appendix. Be sure to check APA on how to reference an appendix item.

Procedure

This should almost be a cookbook type description, write it so that a peer could replicate what you have done. Use headings such as Week One, Week Two to give a sense of a timeline. Also explain why things were done as they were.

Analysis

Do not confuse this section with results which will be in Chapter Four. Explain how you will analyze all data you collect and give a rationale for why you selected these methods. List all the data you will have collected (using level four headings) such as Spelling Tests, Writing Samples. Then explain under each what you will do with that data to make sense of it and to be able to draw conclusions.

Limitations

Discuss the limitations of the study including those of your research design, number of subjects, etc.

Summary

Restate your question and summarize how your methodology.

Guidelines for Chapter Three:

1. This is the “how to” of your project. It should be written in past tense.
2. Is there a clear and easy-to-follow organization? Are large pieces of text broken up? Are there appropriate subheadings?
3. Is it clear how data is collected or your plan for putting your project together.
4. Is it clear how data will be analyzed?
5. If you are describing a project or collecting data you may want to include some kind of graphic of your timeline as an overview and then in the narrative describe what happened, when.
6. If you are using human subjects, a completed Institutional Review Form is due with Chapter Three (see website).

General Guidelines for all Chapters:

1. Anything that is quoted needs a page number

2. Quotes longer than 5 lines should be in block format. Be sure to check APA for block quote formatting.
3. Never put quotes back to back.
4. **DO NOT USE BOLD or PUT WORDS IN CAPS FOR EMPHASIS.**
5. Everything should be double spaced.
6. Put the author, not the title in the text, and only use last names.
7. Cite a source only once in each paragraph, then just use last name(s) of author(s).
8. Be sure to use proper placement of a period after a quote. Correct: "...is a problem" (Smith, 2003). NOT "is a problem." (Smith, 2003).
9. Use Times New Roman 12 font.
10. Put a page break at the end of each chapter.

The following chapters will be done next semester under the direct supervision of your chair and second reader:

Chapter Four

Results

What were the results of your research? This is not the place for opinions or conclusions, just the facts. Put as many of your findings in tables and charts as possible. If you are doing a project, this is where you put the actual project. Be sure to include an introduction and a summary.

Chapter Five

Conclusions

This chapter is your chance to explain what you think the results of your study mean. What are the implications of your findings? What recommendations would you make for future study? What questions did your project raise for you? What other kinds of research would be helpful to the field? How will the findings be presented to a wider audience? Be sure to include an introduction and a summary.

APA Formatting

Cover page	p. 10, 306
Levels of headings	p. 113, 307-8
Page numbers & headers	p. 12, 288
Writing numbers	p. 122
Citations in text	p. 207-214
Reference page	p. 215-281, 313
Block quotes	p. 121, 117-1
Multiple author citations	p. 208
Capitalization of words in titles	p. 95

Final Paper: Your final paper should be polished, in APA format, and comply with CSUSM library guidelines (see website). **You must turn in all drafts I have read with your final paper.**

FINAL PAPER RUBRIC

<u>Category</u>	<u>Chapter 1</u> Max 50 pts	<u>Chapter 2</u> Max 50 pts	<u>Chapter 3</u> Max 50 pts	<u>Cover and Reference Pages</u> Max 25 pts
Organization (15)				
Content (15)				
Conventions, grammar, etc. (10)				
APA Style (10)				

Total Score _____

GRADING

Attendance/Participation	25 pts.
Final Paper	175 pts.

Grading Scale (based on percentages of above points)

100-94	A
93-91	A-
90-88	B+
87-84	B
83-81	B-

COE Attendance Policy

Due to the dynamic and interactive nature of courses in the College of Education, all students are expected to attend all classes and participate actively. At a minimum, students must attend more than 80% of class time, or s/he **may not receive a passing grade** for the course at the discretion of the instructor. Individual instructors may adopt more stringent attendance requirements. Should the student have extenuating circumstances, s/he should contact the instructor as soon as possible.

A good student is one who adheres to standards of dependability and promptness. If you miss more than two class sessions or are late (or leave early) for more than three sessions, you cannot receive an A. If you miss more than three class sessions you cannot receive a B. Late assignments will be penalized by a 5% deduction in points for each weekday late. After two weeks, late assignments will be given a zero. If you have extraordinary circumstances in your life which will impact your assignments, please let me know. I want you to be able to stay in school and succeed. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to come in and speak with me about them.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignments</u>
9-2	Introductions Exploring Questions & Writing Chapter One; Plan of Action	
9-9	No Class	Question and Plan of Action due via email.
9-16	Review of the literature	Chapter One 1st Draft
10-7	Methodology	Signatures of first and second readers DUE Chapter One 2nd Draft Chapter Two 1st Draft
10-28	Analysis/Conclusions	Chapter Two 2 nd Draft Chapter Three 1 st Draft
11-18	No Class	Chapter Three 2 nd Draft due outside UH 418
11-29	No Class	Chapter Three Available outside UH 418
12-9	Sharing & Conclusions	Final Paper Due – Bring a stamped, self addressed envelope for the return of your paper.

I am available for conferences any night we don't have class, but please make an appointment.