

Steven D. Reece

From: Jay Brand <brand@andrews.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2015 23:44
To: Steven D. Reece
Subject: Re: Complete Dissertation Proposal
Attachments: Reece_Ch 1 - 3 Dissertation Proposal_Dr Brand edit 05-05-2015.docx

Steven,

You have found and begun to organize and discuss a great deal of relevant research literature. I believe you may be close to including most of the components necessary for a defensible proposal.

I have attached your latest draft with several detailed suggestions, concentrating mostly on the first 10-15 pages. These changes, which mostly involve clarity in sentence structure(s) and precision with word choice/selection, should be applied to the remainder of your proposal.

Be certain that each chapter in your proposal flows sequentially, without undue repetition or conceptual 'circling back round' to reiterate or revisit previously discussed topics or issues. As you re-read through your proposal, if this 'circling back' happens a lot, it may mean that you should reorganize your material so that it flows more linearly, sequentially, from start to finish. Carefully read each sentence to be certain it stands alone and conveys a clear, distinct thought; paragraphs should also flow smoothly and linearly from an introductory sentence to a summation sentence. Opening sentences of paragraphs and in major sections should provide strong, linking transitions back to previous paragraph(s) and serve to tie all this introductory material together.

Although a certain amount of repetition will occur across Chapters 1, 2 and even 3, Chapter 1 should paint with a broad brush on a larger canvas, while Chapter 2 should go back over the same conceptual landscape, filling in details and supporting them with relevant research citations and discussion. To a large extent, you have already accomplished this goal, but I believe more could be done to ensure that your reasoning is monotonic (develops linearly in the same direction) rather than circular or overly repetitious.

I have included an extended Comment in your paper that I'd like you to read and reflect on. In no way do I mean to imply that something vastly different from what you have written is needed; on the contrary, whatever deficiencies remain have to do with slight re-organization of your material or perhaps a slightly different sequence in a few areas, etc. But it must be obvious to readers, as they read through your proposal, that you are clear about what your dissertation will accomplish, what its core purpose/goals are, and how your research project/process will accomplish them.

I think you're reasonably close to a defensible proposal. You need to begin discussion with your methodologist on Chapter 3 (and the outline of your research questions in Chapter 1) and talk with your content expert/3rd reader about Chapter 2.

Blessings,
Dr. Brand

From: "Steven D. Reece" <sdreece@matzevah.org>
Organization: The Matzevah Foundation, Inc.
Reply-To: "Steven D. Reece" <sdreece@matzevah.org>
Date: Sunday, April 26, 2015 at 4:12 PM
To: Jay Brand <brand@andrews.edu>
Subject: Complete Dissertation Proposal

Dear Dr. Brand,

I am submitting to you my complete dissertation proposal so that you may have a more comprehensive view of it. I have labored to complete my revisions to the literature review in accordance to your guidelines. I think that it is markedly improved and close to being finalized; nevertheless, I feel that it may need some additional work.

Please let me know how to proceed and what I need to do in order to finish my course with you. I will submit my proposal to my committee for their review.

Thank you again for your partnership in this journey.

Shalom,

Steven

Steven D. Reece

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