

Dr. Smith

Research report: Ordinarily, a dissertation, research report is presented in 5 chapters.

CHAPTER I

Statement of the problem to be studied. Explain why it is important. Why do we need to know about this issue? End the chapter with a list of the central question(s) to be addressed by this research. In this instance, your problem is gaining an understanding of the competing policy stances regarding how a district should be managed. It is an intellectual problem. As noted in the statement of the course goal, this is the research question:

In terms of Stone's framework for political rhetoric, what strategic representations of school management [goals, problems, solutions] are made or implied by the advocates of the competing policies for management systems?

CHAPTER II

The conceptual framework that you will use to collect and interpret data. A review of the literature that helps the reader know what this problem means in the practical and scholarly world. Tracing the intellectual connections between your study and other work. In this case, Deborah Stone's perspective has been determined to be the most fruitful way to look at the competing policy stances. With reference to the "Product Matrix" resource, you are explaining the column headings, which specify the way you will analyze the 4 models in the rows of the matrix. You should end the chapter with a visual model of the framework so the reader can see the major concepts and their connections.

CHAPTER III

Design of the study: how you will collect and interpret the data. Why this particular approach to the data collection is the best one to answer the research question posed in chapter I. Be specific about how you will go about addressing that question: what will you do? In this particular case you will engage in thematic/content analysis. For an explanation, see the resource "Thematic analysis."

CHAPTER IV

Presentation of the findings. In this instance, since you are using Stone as a framework, you should present the 4 different strategic representations of the management systems in terms of the paradoxes of goals, problems, and solutions.

CHAPTER V

Conclusion and interpretation. What does this all mean? How do you personally assess the competing management models? What new problems do they reveal? How useful was the Stone framework? What further research could be useful?