

## 1: Theoretical Framework | College of Education Research and Outreach | New Mexico State University

*Sample theoretical framework What belongs in a theoretical framework Your problem statement and research questions will serve as the basis for preparing your theoretical framework.*

The components in the capacity building model will provide the groundwork for the XYZ research study which will study the use of this model in a larger and more heterogeneous district. Rising expectations of classroom teachers to increase student learning coupled with the lack of capacity that school districts have to support teacher growth have created fault lines in education in which teachers and students are falling through the cracks. Principals are held accountable for increasing student achievement, yet they often lack the content knowledge and instructional expertise to support effective teaching practices. We see Teacher Leaders as the bridge to create a support system for teachers and serve as a partner to school administrators in order to improve instruction for all students learning at the classroom level. Standards and curricula materials reflect different views about the nature of science, the role of the teachers in the science classroom, the way in which students learn mathematics, and the sources of scientific authority Hiebert et al. In addition, there is a need for new leadership models including science coaches and Teacher Leaders to support teachers in gaining the required new skills for teaching mathematics deeply and effectively. In her list of Who are Teacher Leaders? Langbort lists eighteen attributes of a science Teacher Leader, including being a spokesperson for science education, an active member of the science education community, and a mentor to other science teachers. According to Friel and Bright , Teacher Leaders play two vital roles in their schools: A unique dichotomy exists in the Land of Enchantment known as New Mexico. While extensive collaborations around the state show that New Mexico has great potential to improve science learning, it is still a high-needs state in which almost all of its districts are designated as high-needs LEAs. On the other hand, our remoteness and low population density limit us to a very small tax base, which has significant repercussions in the public schools. New Mexico personifies a cultural diversity that is also reflected in our schools, with a majority of our students K being Hispanic, second language learners. New Mexico is also well positioned to increase the quality, quantity, and diversity of Teacher Leaders. DSU has a solid record of increasing the successful participation and graduation of Hispanic students and students with disabilities in the STEM fields as demonstrated in NSF and Department of Education-supported programs throughout the university. We anticipate that at least half of our teachers for the institute will represent ethnically and linguistically diverse students. Moreover, New Mexico is a reflection of the complex educational, cultural, and demographic changes occurring throughout the nation, but it is facing them sooner than the rest of the country. Consequently, we have a unique laboratory setting that is rich in ethnic, cultural, linguistic, socioeconomic, and geographic diversity. Since students in classrooms across our nation are becoming more culturally and linguistically diverse, the successful strategies that promote student success that are implemented and documented in New Mexico can be replicated in the future in districts across our nation. Students living in New Mexico desperately need improved science education. Other factors that have hindered the educational achievement of New Mexico students include: New Mexico is ranked 50th in terms of the national matriculation rates Kids Count, Looking at the U. Census Bureau for the poverty percent for all ages, we find that only Louisiana is poorer than New Mexico. In the poverty percent for all population members under 18, only three other states have a higher poverty rate than New Mexico.

## 2: Use of theoretical and conceptual frameworks in qualitative research

*Theoretical Framework* The theoretical framework of the study is a structure that can hold or support a theory of a research work. It presents the theory which explains why the problem under study exists.

Your problem statement and research questions will serve as the basis for preparing your theoretical framework. Sample problem statement and research questions Company X is struggling with the problem that many online customers do not return to make subsequent purchases. Management wants to increase customer loyalty and believes that improved customer satisfaction will play a major role in achieving this goal. To investigate this problem, you have identified and plan to focus on the following problem statement, objective, and research questions: Many online customers do not return to make subsequent purchases. To increase customer loyalty and thereby generate more revenue. Below is a simplified example of how you can describe and compare definitions as well as theories from the literature. Performance that is below expectations leads to a dissatisfied customer, while performance that satisfies expectations produces satisfied customers. It is a judgement that a product or service feature, or the product of service itself, provides a pleasurable level of consumption-related fulfillment. The definition of Thomassen will be used in the current study, given the importance of perception. This meshes well with the offerings of company X, which fall into the luxury category. Company X claims in its mission statement see Chapter 1 that it wants to sell not only a product, but also a feeling; as a result, unconscious comparison will play an important role. The definition of Thomassen is therefore more relevant to the current study. In his satisfaction model Fig. Customer satisfaction creation Thomassen, , p. Of course, you could analyze the concepts more thoroughly and compare additional definitions to each other. You could also discuss the theories and ideas of key authors in greater detail and provide several models to illustrate different concepts. If you do not cite your sources you risk committing plagiarism. Read more about the consequences of plagiarism and how to avoid plagiarism. Receive feedback on language, structure and layout Professional editors proofread and edit your paper by focusing on:

## 3: Sample theoretical framework of a dissertation

*The theoretical framework can be used to answer descriptive research questions that only require literature (or desk) research. For example, theory alone is sufficient to answer the research question: 'What is the relationship between customer loyalty and customer satisfaction?'*

Is the theoretical framework or conceptual model explicit? Logical explanation for choice? Does the chosen framework guide the study? Is the Theoretical Framework or Conceptual Model used to explain the findings? Introduction to Theoretical Frameworks for Nursing Research, Practice, and Education this information is not discussed in podcast, FYI This is just a brief introduction to the use of theoretical frameworks in nursing research, practice, and education. Descriptive theories can guide descriptive studies, explanatory theories can guide correlational research, and predictive theories can guide experimental research Fawcett, The theory you choose to guide your study will depend on what you are interested in studying! If you are interested in the lived experience of patients with spinal cord injury you would look to phenomenology to use as your framework. Again, you might be interested in reading my post on how to use a theoretical framework to guide your research study , click the link to read this post. As far as theoretical frameworks or conceptual models for nursing education â€” again there are many to choose from to guide your own educational practice. There are learning theories that are used in psychology and education: Theoretical frameworks and conceptual models for nursing practice are many. Any nursing theory is appropriate for testings its effects on nursing practice, of course. Theoretical frameworks for nursing research, practice, and education [Blog post]. Philosophies and theories for advanced nursing practice 2nd ed. Fundamental patterns of knowing in nursing. Classic article from is reprinted in this textbook. Using theory in evidence-based advanced nursing practice. Methods and critical appraisal for evidence-based practice 8th ed. Review, critique, and update. Advances in Nursing Science, 17 4 ,

## 4: Elements of a theoretical framework

*Position your theoretical framework within a broader context of related frameworks, concepts, models, or theories. As noted in the example above, there will likely be several concepts, theories, or models that can be used to help develop a framework for understanding the research problem.*

Sample theoretical framework The goal of a theoretical framework After you have identified your problem statement and research question s , it is important to determine what theories and ideas exist in relation to your chosen subject. The definitions and models you select also give your research direction, as you will continue to build on these choices in different stages of your project. The theoretical framework also provides scientific justification for your investigation: How to determine the contents of a theoretical framework As noted above, it is important that you cite existing theories and ideas that are relevant to your chosen topic within the theoretical framework. An important first step is therefore to identify these concepts. Select key concepts Sample problem statement and research questions: Company X is struggling with the problem that many online customers do not return to make subsequent purchases. Management wants to increase customer loyalty and believes that improved customer satisfaction will play a major role in achieving this goal. To investigate this problem, you have identified and plan to focus on the following problem statement, objective, and research questions: Many online customers do not return to make subsequent purchases. To increase customer loyalty and thereby generate more revenue. As such they are key concepts to define within the theoretical framework. Define and evaluate relevant concepts, theories, and models A literature review is first used to determine how other researchers have defined these key concepts. You should then critically compare the definitions that different authors have proposed. The last step is to choose the definition that best fits your research and justify why this is the case. It is also important to indicate if there are any notable links between these concepts. Apart from that, you should describe any relevant theories and models that relate to your key concepts and argue why you are or are not applying them to your own research. Consider adding other elements to your theoretical framework Depending on your topic or discipline, a comprehensive review of the state of affairs in relation to your research topic may also be helpful to include in your theoretical framework. Analyzing the research field will give you an idea of what similar studies have looked at and found regarding the problem. This will clarify the position of your research in relation to existing knowledge in the field. Following these steps will help to ensure that you are presenting a solid overview: Describe what discussions on the subject exist within the literature. Explain what methods, theories, and models other authors have applied. In doing so, always argue why a particular theory or model is or is not appropriate for your own research. Analyze the similarities and differences between your own research and earlier studies. Explain how your study adds to knowledge that already exists on the subject. Want to learn more about doctoral research? Provides greater understanding of the doctoral process and the requirements for success. Recognises the challenges facing students and offers practical solutions. Learn more about this book What kinds of research questions can you answer within a theoretical framework? The theoretical framework can be used to answer descriptive research questions that only require literature or desk research. For example, theory alone is sufficient to answer the research question: The theoretical framework and the literature review that serves as its backbone can also be used to further analyze existing findings and hypotheses. It may also be used to formulate and evaluate hypotheses of your own, which you can later test during the qualitative or quantitative research of your study. The structure of the theoretical framework There are no fixed rules for structuring a theoretical framework. The important thing is to create a structure that is logical. For example, you could create a section or paragraph that looks at each question, hypothesis, or key concept. Within that text, you could then explore the theories and models that are relevant to that particular item. How long should the theoretical framework be? The rules about length are not clear either, but a theoretical framework is on average three to five pages long. To makes things clearer, you might find it useful to include models or other graphics within the theoretical framework. However, if you are concerned about space, you can place these illustrations in an appendix which you can then refer to in the main text. Sample theoretical framework We

## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK IN RESEARCH EXAMPLE pdf

have prepared a sample theoretical framework that will give you a sense of what this important part of a dissertation may look like.

## 5: Theoretical Frameworks for Nursing Research, Practice, and Education - Nursing Education Expert

*Example of a theoretical framework The past research and studies reveal that development of self-management and problem solving among adolescents with diabetes is a current issue of concern whose development leaves individuals with some questions to answer.*

Essay This essay has been submitted by a student. This is not an example of the work written by our professional essay writers. Example of a theoretical framework The past research and studies reveal that development of self-management and problem solving among adolescents with diabetes is a current issue of concern whose development leaves individuals with some questions to answer. It is clear that experts are trying to implement ways to increase physical activity, technological use and implement healthier food alternatives to maintain blood glucose levels. Many researchers agree that within the adolescent population, self-management to treatment in diabetes often decreases, resulting in a higher hemoglobin A1C levels. While there is an abundant amount of available research and information on the topic of self-management and problem solving of diabetes control, there is very little research precisely addressing technological use for diabetes self-management. There is a constant need for advancement in technology in every aspect of the health field. Diabetes is therefore still a serious problem among the adolescents individual as the problem has not yet been investigated. The problem, therefore, advances to another level whereby the management becomes a problem as the issue itself has not been determined. Some researchers, however, recognize the importance of incorporating technological aspect in the intervention into the issue in question. The struggle of such literature does not still fit in the contemporary society since the community still has not adjusted to accept the requirements of technology in the solution of the problem. Besides the unwillingness of the society to fit the current trends expectations, the individual communities cannot manage the components which define the requirements. Diabetes is therefore still a major problem among the adolescents. Studies reveal that diagnosis on Diabetes is not conducted that frequently. However, the level at which the disorder has managed to be prevalent should influence the health sector to be so active that it tends to determine the section of the adolescent population that is a victim. Studies should, therefore, go an extra mile in the determination of what could be the problem which would prevent the diagnosis on this common disorder. This concern follows the keen consideration of how common the condition is, especially, among adolescents. It would be advisable for the health practitioners to demonstrate their concern in identifying the part of the population which is already affected by this issue. Literature should also be working with this expectation among the health officers by determining what could be preventing them from seriously getting into such problem. Theoretical framework in research example The chances of developing the disease depend on several factors such as lifestyle, genetic and environmental factors. Besides the mentioned factors, some diseases also have the ability to develop into diabetes. Youths require such knowledge so that they would have the capacity to fight the disease adequately. The knowledge would only be imparted to such children through the effort of the health sector. Literature is also reliable sources of the related pieces of information for the children who have usually been the victims. It is a requirement that the children understand the background information about the major causes of diabetes such that they would adjust to ensure they are safe from the disease. Literature should, therefore, be comprehensive enough to inform the children about the causes, effects and the symptoms of the disorder. This would put the youths at a position to be able to fight the problem adequately. They would show a willingness to fight it among themselves and ensure safety from it. However much literature has the freedom to criticize the failure of the society to help the children fight against diabetes, others can also have the right to criticize them. The issue of management and problem solving in ensuring that diabetes is no longer a problem is a global problem. Therefore, it is advisable for one to stop and think of why the problem could persist. The underlying issue is likely to be problem underwent by the children and the society in general in their struggle to have a community free of the disorder. The biggest issue is the financial issue whereby only a few have the ability to raise the adequate amount for the issue. The management of the disorder demands a lot of effort regarding financial support from an adolescent or anyone concerned with their health progress. Based on the

research information and the subsequent theoretical framework, it can be deduced that there is no adequate information regarding the problem solving and management of diabetes among the adolescents. It is most likely that the problem may persist and worsens off. Should the health practitioners fail to more effort in the issue, they would still be a society where diabetes is a common problem among the youths. Researchers should, therefore, study and come up with comprehensive information about the issue, which would impart the related knowledge among the adolescents. Need a paper on the same topic? We will write it for you from scratch! Order now Request Removal If you are the original writer of this essay and no longer wish to have the essay published on the SpeedyPaper website then click on link below to request removal: Request the removal of this essay People also read.

## 6: How to Prepare a Theoretical Framework for a Research Paper | Career Trend

*The research plan must have intrinsic research importance as well as serve as a suitable vehicle for learning the methodology, theories, and skills necessary for a well-trained independent researcher.*

**Theoretical Framework A Little Bit About Frameworks** The weather forecasts a significant snowfall for the evening and near blizzard conditions are expected. The snow is just starting to fall. You are trying to get to the grocery store to pick up some supplies as you expect to be "snowed in" for a couple of days. It took you 20 minutes longer to get to the store from work than it normally does. People were either driving too fast and sliding off the road or they were driving so slowly that only one car could get through the traffic light. Once in the store, you find that there are only a few gallons of milk left in the case, only a 15, one dozen egg cartons are left, and the bread that is on the shelf is smashed. Finally, you get your supplies and push the cart to the cashiers only to find that there are 10 to 12 people in each line. People are grumbling and complaining, babies are crying, and children are whining. People are tense and irritable. Drawing on your knowledge of psychology and sociology, you begin to think about the problems that people have been dealing with today, the lack of supplies, long lines, and the concern about the impending winter storm. While you are not really aware of it, you start relating and explaining their behavior to stress theories. Theories are used by every discipline and every person, regardless of the level of the theory. Theories are use to explain and predict. According to Nieswiadomy the word theory is derived from "theoria," a Greek Word. Theoria means a beholding or speculation. Theories are used to describe, predict, explain, and control phenomena. Why are theoretical frameworks used? Theoretical frameworks provide the organization for the study. It guides the researcher in the interpretations of the results. While the words are used interchangeably in the literature, a theoretical framework provides a broad explanation of relationships that exists between concepts. A theoretical framework is based on ONEtheory. The concepts of the study relate back to the theory. Theoretical frameworks start out as a conceptual framework and with much research, develop into a research-based theoretical framework. When no existing theory fits the concepts that the researcher wishes to study, the researcher may construct a conceptual framework that can be used to describe and begin to explain the relationships of the concepts. For example, when I wanted to study computer attitudes and state anxiety, I constructed a conceptual framework to guide the study. The conceptual framework was a compilation of concepts from three theoretical frameworks. A conceptual framework is not as well developed as is a theoretical framework. Some theoretical frameworks from nursing Uncertainty:

## 7: What is a Theoretical Framework or Conceptual Model? - Nursing Education Expert

*This Podcast and notes define the difference between theoretical frameworks and conceptual models, defines conceptual and operational definitions, introduce the nursing metaparadigm concepts, and introduce how theoretical frameworks and conceptual models guide research, practice, and education. Examples of these concepts are included.*

This post will cover why theoretical frameworks and conceptual models are important in nursing, explain the difference between the two, and provide a simple example of how research is used to test theoretical propositions. Before we get started, I want to remind you of a free resource I have waiting for you. Theory in Nursing Programs Every nursing student in a baccalaureate degree program gets introduced to nursing theory. Usually, the undergraduate class teaches you the basic concepts of theory, differentiates between theories and models, introduces the steps to critique a theory, and presents an overview of selected nursing theories – usually from the first grand theories to practical middle-range theories to conceptual models. An overview of basic concepts of nursing theory is found in a previous blog post. The podcast that accompanies this post elaborates on the notes provided, so be sure to scroll down to the podcast player! Graduate theory courses should build on the theory foundation laid in the undergraduate course. Students may learn to do a concept analysis to analyze and synthesize the meanings and nuances of a selected concept so that the concept may be tested through research and used in practice. Why is Nursing Theory Important? They explain what the phenomenon of nursing is all about. Having taught nursing theory at the graduate level, my purpose was to get nursing students to value nursing theory as a unique, essential, part of our professional nursing practice. To appreciate how nurses describe, explain, predict, and understand phenomena that are important to the practice of nursing is a building block of expert nursing knowledge. The title of an article by Gonzalez conveys the gestalt of theory-driven practice: Theory-guided practice provides a systematic way of practicing that helps us predict patient outcomes. Deliberate action and professional autonomy go hand-in-hand. In addition to using theory to guide practice, to build the science of nursing, nursing research should be guided by theory, as well as teaching practice. The Nursing Knowledge Continuum from most abstract to most concrete One of the characteristics of a profession is to have a unique, specialized body of knowledge. Nursing knowledge can be viewed as a continuum that moves from a high level of abstraction to a practical and concrete level of abstraction Alligood, ; Fawcett, ; Masters, The nursing metaparadigm consisting of the four central concepts: A conceptual model also can be derived from a theory. The visual representation of the model is helpful to see how the components are related and fit the phenomenon of interest. Nursing theories define phenomena of interest to the nursing profession. Testing a Theory Proposition: A Simple Example Theories and conceptual models are used to guide the design of research studies, clinical practice, and education practices because they provide the rationale for the relationships between the variables of interest. She also described multiple models, including a Transaction Model – a series of interactions between the nurse and patient to attain goals. We can test this theory by validating the propositions in a research study. A research study can be designed based on this TGA proposition. Research only strengthens, refutes, or refines the theory tested. What questions do you have about theories or conceptual models? Let me know in the comments! There is a lot of information on the Internet regarding nursing theories. Also make sure to cite the websites correctly in your class papers according to the style manual you are required to use in your nursing program e. What is a theoretical framework or conceptual model? Its importance to practice. Nursing Standard, 17 46 , Theory testing and theory evaluation. Advance for Nurses, 10 16 , An introduction to theory and reasoning in nursing. A theory for nursing:

## 8: The theoretical framework of a dissertation: what and how?

*I. Introduction and Theoretical Framework hypotheses must be grounded in the theoretical framework. B. A research question poses a relationship For example.*

Bibliography Definition Theories are formulated to explain, predict, and understand phenomena and, in many cases, to challenge and extend existing knowledge within the limits of critical bounding assumptions. The theoretical framework is the structure that can hold or support a theory of a research study. The theoretical framework introduces and describes the theory that explains why the research problem under study exists. Theory Building in Applied Disciplines. Importance of Theory A theoretical framework consists of concepts and, together with their definitions and reference to relevant scholarly literature, existing theory that is used for your particular study. The theoretical framework must demonstrate an understanding of theories and concepts that are relevant to the topic of your research paper and that relate to the broader areas of knowledge being considered. The theoretical framework is most often not something readily found within the literature. You must review course readings and pertinent research studies for theories and analytic models that are relevant to the research problem you are investigating. The selection of a theory should depend on its appropriateness, ease of application, and explanatory power. The theoretical framework strengthens the study in the following ways: The theoretical framework connects the researcher to existing knowledge. Guided by a relevant theory, you are given a basis for your hypotheses and choice of research methods. Articulating the theoretical assumptions of a research study forces you to address questions of why and how. It permits you to intellectually transition from simply describing a phenomenon you have observed to generalizing about various aspects of that phenomenon. Having a theory helps you identify the limits to those generalizations. A theoretical framework specifies which key variables influence a phenomenon of interest and highlights the need to examine how those key variables might differ and under what circumstances. By virtue of its applicative nature, good theory in the social sciences is of value precisely because it fulfills one primary purpose: Answers from the Social and Cultural Sciences. University of Tennessee Press, ; Drafting an Argument. How Conceptual Frameworks Guide Research. Research Methods Knowledge Base. Developing Theory from Practice. Strategies for Developing the Theoretical Framework I. Developing the Framework Here are some strategies to develop of an effective theoretical framework: Examine your thesis title and research problem. The research problem anchors your entire study and forms the basis from which you construct your theoretical framework. Brainstorm about what you consider to be the key variables in your research. Answer the question, "What factors contribute to the presumed effect? Identify the assumptions from which the author s addressed the problem. Group these variables into independent and dependent categories. Review key social science theories that are introduced to you in your course readings and choose the theory that can best explain the relationships between the key variables in your study [note the Writing Tip on this page]. Discuss the assumptions or propositions of this theory and point out their relevance to your research. A theoretical framework is used to limit the scope of the relevant data by focusing on specific variables and defining the specific viewpoint [framework] that the researcher will take in analyzing and interpreting the data to be gathered. It also facilitates the understanding of concepts and variables according to given definitions and builds new knowledge by validating or challenging theoretical assumptions. Purpose Think of theories as the conceptual basis for understanding, analyzing, and designing ways to investigate relationships within social systems. To that end, the following roles served by a theory can help guide the development of your framework. Means by which new research data can be interpreted and coded for future use, Response to new problems that have no previously identified solutions strategy, Means for identifying and defining research problems, Means for prescribing or evaluating solutions to research problems, Ways of discerning certain facts among the accumulated knowledge that are important and which facts are not, Means of giving old data new interpretations and new meaning, Means by which to identify important new issues and prescribe the most critical research questions that need to be answered to maximize understanding of the issue, Means of providing members of a professional discipline with a common language and a frame of reference for defining

the boundaries of their profession, and Means to guide and inform research so that it can, in turn, guide research efforts and improve professional practice. Holton III, editors. *Human Resource Development Handbook: Linking Research and Practice. Theory Construction and Model-Building Skills: A Practical Guide for Social Scientists*. Guilford, ; Ravitch, Sharon M. *Structure and Writing Style* The theoretical framework may be rooted in a specific theory, in which case, your work is expected to test the validity of that existing theory in relation to specific events, issues, or phenomena. Many social science research papers fit into this rubric. For example, Peripheral Realism Theory, which categorizes perceived differences among nation-states as those that give orders, those that obey, and those that rebel, could be used as a means for understanding conflicted relationships among countries in Africa. A test of this theory could be the following: Does Peripheral Realism Theory help explain intra-state actions, such as, the disputed split between southern and northern Sudan that led to the creation of two nations? However, you may not always be asked by your professor to test a specific theory in your paper, but to develop your own framework from which your analysis of the research problem is derived. Based upon the above example, it is perhaps easiest to understand the nature and function of a theoretical framework if it is viewed as an answer to two basic questions: I could choose instead to test Instrumentalist or Circumstantialists models developed among ethnic conflict theorists that rely upon socio-economic-political factors to explain individual-state relations and to apply this theoretical model to periods of war between nations]. The answers to these questions come from a thorough review of the literature and your course readings [summarized and analyzed in the next section of your paper] and the gaps in the research that emerge from the review process. With this in mind, a complete theoretical framework will likely not emerge until after you have completed a thorough review of the literature. Just as a research problem in your paper requires contextualization and background information, a theory requires a framework for understanding its application to the topic being investigated. When writing and revising this part of your research paper, keep in mind the following: Clearly describe the framework, concepts, models, or specific theories that underpin your study. This includes noting who the key theorists are in the field who have conducted research on the problem you are investigating and, when necessary, the historical context that supports the formulation of that theory. This latter element is particularly important if the theory is relatively unknown or it is borrowed from another discipline. Position your theoretical framework within a broader context of related frameworks, concepts, models, or theories. As noted in the example above, there will likely be several concepts, theories, or models that can be used to help develop a framework for understanding the research problem. The present tense is used when writing about theory. Although the past tense can be used to describe the history of a theory or the role of key theorists, the construction of your theoretical framework is happening now. You should make your theoretical assumptions as explicit as possible. Later, your discussion of methodology should be linked back to this theoretical framework. Alabama State University; Conceptual Framework: University of Michigan; Drafting an Argument. *Demystifying the Journal Article. The Context of Discovery*. Stanford University Press, , pp. Writing Tip Borrowing Theoretical Constructs from Elsewhere A growing and increasingly important trend in the social and behavioral sciences is to think about and attempt to understand specific research problems from an interdisciplinary perspective. One way to do this is to not rely exclusively on the theories in your particular discipline, but to think about how an issue might be informed by theories developed in other disciplines. For example, if you are a political science student studying the rhetorical strategies used by female incumbents in state legislature campaigns, theories about the use of language could be derived, not only from political science, but linguistics, communication studies, philosophy, psychology, and, in this particular case, feminist studies. Building theoretical frameworks based on the postulates and hypotheses developed in other disciplinary contexts can be both enlightening and an effective way to be fully engaged in the research topic. *The Oxford Handbook of Interdisciplinarity*. Oxford University Press, Do not leave the theory hanging out there in the introduction never to be mentioned again. Undertheorizing weakens your paper. The theoretical framework you describe should guide your study throughout the paper. Be sure to always connect theory to the review of pertinent literature and to explain in the discussion part of your paper how the theoretical framework you chose supports analysis of the research problem, or if appropriate, how the theoretical framework was found in some way to be inadequate in

explaining the phenomenon you were investigating. The terms theory and hypothesis are often used interchangeably in newspapers and popular magazines and in non-academic settings. However, the difference between theory and hypothesis in scholarly research is important, particularly when using an experimental design. A theory is a well-established principle that has been developed to explain some aspect of the natural world. Theories arise from repeated observation and testing and incorporates facts, laws, predictions, and tested assumptions that are widely accepted [e. A hypothesis is a specific, testable prediction about what you expect to happen in your study. For example, an experiment designed to look at the relationship between study habits and test anxiety might have a hypothesis that states, "We predict that students with better study habits will suffer less test anxiety. The key distinctions are: A theory has been extensively tested and is generally accepted among scholars; a hypothesis is a speculative guess that has yet to be tested.

## 9: Sample Theoretical Framework “ Thesis Notes

*The theoretical foundation is important because it will be the lens through which you evaluate your research problem and research questions. The theoretical framework section is typically required for quantitative studies, while a conceptual framework is used in qualitative studies.*

A theoretical framework guides your research, determining what things you will measure, and what statistical relationships you will look for. Theoretical frameworks are obviously critical in deductive, theory-testing sorts of studies see Kinds of Research for more information. In those kinds of studies, the theoretical framework must be very specific and well-thought out. There are two reasons why theoretical frameworks are important here. First, no matter how little you think you know about a topic, and how unbiased you think you are, it is impossible for a human being not to have preconceived notions, even if they are of a very general nature. For example, some people fundamentally believe that people are basically lazy and untrustworthy, and you have keep your wits about you to avoid being conned. These fundamental beliefs about human nature affect how you look things when doing personnel research. Not knowing what your real framework is can be a problem. We can never completely get around this problem, but we can reduce the problem considerably by simply making our implicit framework explicit. Once it is explicit, we can deliberately consider other frameworks, and try to see the organizational situation through different lenses. Cases and Variables Cases are objects whose behavior or characteristics we study. Usually, the cases are persons. But they can also be groups, departments, organizations, etc. They can also be more esoteric things like events e. Variables are characteristics of cases. Qualities of the cases that we measure or record. For example, if the cases are persons, the variables could be sex, age, height, weight, feeling of empowerment, math ability, etc. Variables are called what they are because it is assumed that the cases will vary in their scores on these attributes. For example, if the variable is age, we obviously recognize that people can be different ages. Of course, sometimes, for a given sample of people, there might not be any variation on some attribute. In any particular study, variables can play different roles. Two key roles are independent variables and dependent variables. Usually there is only one dependent variable, and it is the outcome variable, the one you are trying to predict. Variation in the dependent variable is what you are trying to explain. For example, if we do a study to determine why some people are more satisfied in their jobs than others, job satisfaction is the dependent variable. The independent variables, also known as the predictor or explanatory variables, are the factors that you think explain variation in the dependent variable. In other words, these are the causes. For example, you may think that people are more satisfied with their jobs if they are given a lot of freedom to do what they want, and if they are well-paid. This is diagrammed as follows: It looks like the Enterprise There are actually two other kinds of variables, which are basically independent variables, but work a little differently. These are moderator and intervening variables. A moderator variable is one that modifies the relationship between two other variables. For example, suppose that the cases are whole organizations, and you believe that diversity in the organization can help make them more profitable because diversity leads to fresh outlooks on old problems , but only if managers are specially trained in diversity management otherwise all that diversity causes conflicts and miscommunication. Here, diversity is clearly an independent variable, and profitability is clearly a dependent variable. But what is diversity training? Its main function seems to be adjust the strength of relation between diversity and profitability For example, suppose you are studying job applications to various departments within a large organization. You believe that in overall, women applicants are more likely to get the job than men applicants, but that this varies by the number of women already in the department the person applied to. Specifically, departments that already have a lot of women will favor female applicants, while departments with few women will favor male applicants. We can diagram this as follows: Another way to talk about moderating and independent variables is in terms of interaction. Interacting variables affect the dependent variable only when both are acting in concert. We could diagram that this way: An intervening or intermediary variable is one that is affected by the independent variable and in turn affects the dependent variable. For example, we said that diversity is good for profitability because diversity leads to innovation fresh looks

which in turn leads to profitability. Here, innovation is an intervening variable. We diagram it this way: Note that in the diagram, there is no arrow from diversity directly to profitability. This means that if we control for innovativeness, diversity is unrelated to profitability. To control for a variable means to hold its values constant. For example, suppose we measure the diversity, innovativeness and profitability of a several thousand companies. If we look at the relationship between diversity and profitability, we might find that the more diverse companies have, on average, higher profitability than the less diverse companies. But suppose we divide the sample into two groups: Now, within just the innovative group, we again look at the relationship between diversity and profitability. We might find that there is no relationship. Similarly, if we just look at the non-innovative group, we might find no relationship between diversity and profitability there either. Consider the relationship between education and health. In general, the more a educated a person is, the healthier they are. Do diplomas have magic powers? It might be because educated people are more likely to eat nutritionally sensible food and this in turn contributes to their health. But of course, there are many reasons why you might eat nutritionally sensible food, even if you are not educated. So if we were to look at the relationship between education and health among only people who eat nutritionally sensible food, we might find no relationship. That would support the idea that nutrition is an intervening variable. Here is an example. Look at the relationship between the amount of ice cream sold on a given day, and the number of drownings on those days. This is not hypothetical: There is a strong correlation: Ice cream screws up your coordination? There is a third variable that is causing both ice cream sales and drownings. The variable is temperature. On hot days, people are more likely to buy ice cream. They are also more likely to go to the beach, where a certain proportion will drown. If we control for temperature i. Nor is ice cream sales an intervening variable, since ice cream sales do not cause drownings.

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