Requirements for Practicum Project Proposals
And Final Report

Proposal

The following are requirements for your practicum project proposal and final report. As you develop your project, be aware that the aspects of the study discussed below are not unique to research. They are critical to good treatment of any type. We must systematically examine which aspects of a given treatment (session/strategy) yield an effect on the behavior we wish to change.

1. Submit the proposal to your GSU practicum supervisor in the term in which you plan to undertake the project. Type your proposal. You may type or neatly print the cover sheet.

2. Make a copy of the proposal for yourself and a copy for your practicum site clinical supervisor. Give your GSU supervisor the original of your proposal form. After he or she approves it, your GSU supervisor will place a copy in your program file, and will notify you of the approval. You may then begin data collection.

3. Include a complete description of the project with the cover sheet. The project description should incorporate the following information:

Title

The title of your paper should give the reader some idea of the nature of your study. It is a good idea to name the independent and dependent variables. A good example from a recent JSLHR is, “Effects of Vowel Height and Vocal Intensity on Anticipatory Nasal Airflow in Individuals with Normal Speech.” Another is, “A Comparison of Speech Training Methods with Deaf Adolescents: Spectrographic versus Non-instrumental Instruction.”

Introduction

Do not label this section. Start with statements that lead the reader in the general area of your topic. To the extent possible, review pertinent literature on your therapy method. If applicable, indicate flaws or omissions in previous studies which gave you the idea for your study. Provide a logical and convincing rationale for the study via your review of the literature. End with a statement of your research question(s) or the purpose(s) of your study. Overall, the purpose of the introduction is to support your study questions or purposes. Everything should flow to that.
**Experimental Question**

State your experimental question. The question will address a problem that can be approached by single-subject designs. These include:

1. Is this treatment effective?
2. Which of these two treatments is more effective?
3. Which component(s) of the treatment package are effective?
4. Does changing the criterion for success improve performance?

Write your experimental question to specifically address the treatment you are providing, not one of the general questions above.

**Variables**

Part of your statement of purpose or experimental question will specify your variables.

1. Dependent variable (i.e., the target behavior that you are measuring and are attempting to alter with treatment). Be sure to include the unit of measurement where applicable.

2. Independent variable(s) (i.e., the treatment strategies, factors, or variables you are systematically manipulating or conditions that may produce change in the dependent variable).

**Method**

Provide your strategy for investigating your questions. This section typically will have three subsections.

**Participant(s)**

Describe the participants (subjects) in your study. Be specific about all relevant characteristics. Remember to maintain your client’s confidentiality.

Include the following **(write narratively, not in a list):**

1. age of the client
2. gender
3. native language
4. diagnostic label/medical label
5. symptoms of communication or swallowing disorder for which treatment is being provided
6. medical history
7. educational level
8. history of speech-language pathology and audiology services received
9. fictitious name
10. Specific measurable therapy goal.
This is the short-term goal or objective. For example, "Rhonda will spontaneously verbally request items during conversation in play in the therapy room in 95% of opportunities." Goals should include:
   a. a desired behavior (e.g., request items)
   b. a level of communicative complexity (e.g., during conversation)
   c. a mode of response (e.g., verbally request)
   d. stimulus and setting conditions (e.g., during play in the therapy room)
   e. a level of accuracy (e.g., 95% of opportunities)

If relevant, include the following:
11. nature of support system/family (without specific identifying information)
12. handedness
13. ethnicity
14. socioeconomic status
15. occupation

In order to protect client’s confidentiality, the following items should not appear in any documentation related to the practicum project and will not be discussed by any student, faculty, or supervisor:
➤ name of client
➤ employer name
➤ name of clinical setting
➤ specific city, town, or village of residence or in which treatment was provided
➤ any specific identifying information which may allow the identity of the client to be determined

**Materials**
Describe the various tests, therapy materials, human observers, or equipment you will use. Be specific.

**Procedures**
Here you will describe your experimental treatment design. Provide a complete description of your treatment method. It should be very clear to the reader what your treatment entails in every aspect. Refer to the "Guidelines for Single-Subject Designs" attached.

**Results**
Describe what data you will collect and how you will analyze and display them (e.g. tables, charts, or graphs).
References

If you have references at this point, list these, in APA format, on a separate page.

Appendices

Include items such as examples of therapy material and prepared score sheets for data collection. Label appendices alphabetically, and consecutively as you referred to them in your narrative.

Final Report

The final report is a description of how you completed your project. Your final report will draw heavily from your proposal. However, there are some changes you will make.

- If your project changed in any way from the proposal, prepare your final report to reflect the changes. Do not submit a final report that contains information about things you did not do.
- The final report is written in past tense. Change any future tense used in your proposal to the past tense, to indicate what you actually did.
- You will need to change your Results section to reflect the results you obtained.
- You will need to write a Discussion section. Make a careful and conservative statement about the clinical effectiveness of your results. Explain why you think you got the results you did. It will be a mark of scholarship if you compare your results to those previously published.