The introduction to your research project is designed to identify the specific problem and general research area you will study. You will indicate the need, and purpose for the study.

You will denote why this investigation is important to others in your profession. Initial research that has cause you to develop this study will be presented in the introduction.

Finally, the research question or problem statement will conclude your paper. The length of this paper will be no less than four-five pages and no more than seven pages (4-7 pages). The paper will be written in third-person.

You will use 3-4 references for this section to support the rationale for your study. These can be research studies, essays, introductory information, etc. They can be from journals, textbooks, trade journals, or public media.

Other than the journals, these references will not appear in the Review of Literature, but are permissible in the introduction. Your introduction must have the following subsections. You must have subheadings. See 3.03 of the APA manual for correct levels of headings. • Title page: must be APA format; use your manual (it will be your devoted companion throughout your graduate studies).

• Start the first section with the title of your study, then begin the text; do not start this section with the heading “Introduction”; it is implied because the text is at the beginning of your paper.

• Next, begin your paper with opening paragraphs (2-3) that accomplish the following. o Provide a clear statement of the research topic and scope of the proposed study. o Discuss the need for the study.

§ You will use 3-4 references for this section to support the rationale. These can be research studies, essays, introductory information, etc. They can be from journals, textbooks, trade journals, or public media. Other than the journals, these references will not appear in the Review of Literature, but are permissible in the introduction. References will help support the following. § Why is this study important to your profession? § What is the background of this research? You can reference previous research in the general topic, cite leading researchers in the area, and/or develop the historical context of the theoretical rational for the study. o These are your opening paragraphs and do not have a subheading.

• Next, write a paragraph that describes the problem and purpose of the study. Discuss the following: o What is the problem that needs to be investigated? o Why does the problem deserve further research? o What is the significance or rationale for the study? o How will the findings from this study contribute or challenge knowledge and/or theory in the area on inquiry, practice? o What is the justification of the study? § Refer to your text for types of justifications; use one of these § This subsection will have a heading § • The next section will include the definition of terms. This subsection will have a heading. o Define the important terms that are used in special ways in your paper. o Provide operational definitions to provide clarity for the reader

• Finally, conclude the text portion of your paper with another section using the steps below. o Identifying your research question or problem statement. o Discussing your approach to solving the problem. At this phase, you do not need to go into detail about the methods you will use. o Concluding your paper with a summary of the research problem. o This subsection will have a heading.

• References; paper must include 3-4 references o Use separate page; refer to APA manual for correct citations and formatting