

Assignment 1- Research Question, 5%

Due by 5/26, 11:59 PM EST

There is no drop box. **Do NOT email through Blackboard. Email it from your WCSU email account.**

Late submissions, missing assignments or the ones that do not follow the requisite format guidelines will receive an automatic zero.

This research question will be the **topic** of your literature review assignment and its **first paragraph**. Therefore, select something that is of interest to you. Keep the focus very clear and very specific. You can submit it sooner but cannot submit multiple versions. Once you receive feedback you will be able to start working on the Literature Review assignment.

Read the handout on '**How to pick a research question**' (posted in the folder Literature Review) before you begin with this assignment.

Assignment- Research Question

By now, you have read Chapters 1, 2 & 11 and also understood the importance of conducting evaluative research (If needed, read slide 3 in Ch11 PPT again). You have also been introduced to the importance of specificity in developing a clear research question. Keeping that in mind;

Clearly state a criminal justice policy, statute or program that you would like to evaluate. You must clearly mention the specific sections or provisions of the policy, statute or program that you are proposing to evaluate.

You MUST select criminal justice policy, law or program from CT only.

Length and Structure

- The research question should be introduced in no more than 1 page.
- In addition to the research question, there will be at least TWO more pages for Appendixes I and II. Each appendix begins on a new page.
- Appendix I is the Bibliography. For this assignment, it will contain one source only. It will be the source from where you accessed policy, statute, or program that you are evaluating.
- Appendix II is the excerpt of the law, policy or program that you are proposing to evaluate. Copy and paste the specific provisions or sections on a separate page and place it in the

Appendix II. At the end of the copied text, type **Source:** and list the source as per APA guidelines.

- Caution: Do NOT copy and paste the complete law or program in the Appendix II. Copy and paste *only* the sections that you will evaluate. If you copy everything, then I will expect you to evaluate everything within the give time and word limit (and that is impossible).

While writing, get to the point right away. The opening sentence should very clearly state the research question. The **opening sentence should begin with these three words---** *This paper evaluates...*

- **Do NOT write in first person-** I will study... we will study etc... Instead, write in third person- The paper evaluates x, y, z....
- In research papers, **never use contractions-** don't, won't, they're, haven't. Write as do not, will not, they are, have not etc.

Sample Research Question Assignments- I have posted sample research question assignments on Blackboard in the folder 'Literature Review.' Some of the samples include common errors that I have marked. Please pay close attention. If anything is unclear, ask me. Do not wait till the last moment. Again,

- Appendix I should be the Bibliography.
- Appendix II should be the section or the provision of the law, policy or program that you are evaluating. This is a frequent error in the sample RQs.

In-text citations and references/works cited should be as per the APA guidelines. You can access it on the APA website <http://www.apastyle.org>. Here's a link to a cheat sheet <https://www.library.kent.edu/files/APACheatSheet.pdf> . I have posted these links on Blackboard under announcements. Do not try to memorize the rules; just remember to cite everything as per the rules. Do not use any automatic programs for citations.

Format: Typed in 1.5 or double space, Font- Times New Roman, Size- 12, Page margins- 1" all sides. Proofread for grammatical, typographical, punctuation and citation errors.

Writing this assignment will not take long, but finding and reading the precise information could be time consuming. Plan well!

Good luck!