

Reflection

Doing academic research at the beginning of the year was a struggle because I did not really understand how to do academic research. Throughout the semester it began making sense because having the class in person and taking one step at a time. The beginning of the year the research that was done was looking and finding information that was interesting and might be useful to help me with my research. Over the semester my academic research changed starting with how to make a survey research question with picking what was going to be the independent and what was going to be the dependent for my research that I was looking at. With the assignment being survey questions that were broken up to find the independent and dependent, we had to write a research question that made sense. Another thing that I learned is how to write a literature review and that correct way and that the literature review was to help with information that help you describe what the peer reviewed journal articles were. Another thing that has changed from the beginning of the semester is how to use Rstudio to help find quantitative data and use the data to make charts. Also with the qualitative data I learned how to comprehend and how to write up a qualitative paper from the information that was used from the research to make themes and for each response should go to which theme that was created in my research. In all these examples and lessons learned from this semester my academic change in academic research is that it is a process and it takes time to do correctly and done well.

My process of selecting sources for my research is starting off by finding peer reviewed articles that went along with my research question and finding articles that could add support and extend on my research question. Sources that were being used in the research were peer reviewed articles and articles that were .edu, .gov, or parts of journals that talked about and or supported my research. This was the section that was the literature review in the research. The articles that were decided on had to follow my research question and help me to explain my research and

they had to be peer reviewed articles that had facts and credited references, and did not use anything with .com because they were not credited sources to use. After turning in the annotated bibliography I had to make changes because when getting feedback there was a source that was not correctly listed or could not be found after clicking on the URL and finding it. The information did not come from the main source so the sources had to be taken out all together because it was not found in the correct article.

Some challenges found when doing research for assignments in this class was that some areas would have looked over more than once. For example, when the literature review was done fully and correctly it had to have changes made. I also find the strategy of reading everything out loud to myself to find as many mistakes as can be found in the research. Also, another strategy that helped me to overcome the challenges of the research was having someone annotate and review the research that was created and help me make changes and corrections. Another challenge that was faced during the research was using a new site that could help with the research. The site was RStudio. The strategy that helps me with this challenge is to follow instructions to an exact and then try it on my own with just practicing and doing it till I could understand what was meant. In the research a strategy that helps is to do little group discussion so you understand what is required for the research and to make sure what you are doing for the research.

Doing the research over the semester helped my attitude and perceptions change. The reason for that is because research is a process and it takes time to do and not always get the information you would like to have. There are always flaws in doing research. When getting the surveys back for our quantitative part of the research we had to use the 11 surveys we got back out of the 51 surveys we had sent out to the Head Start Program. With this amount of surveys

back it was only 22% not a lot of data back but we did get some back so we used what we had to complete our quantitative data. Also with changes over time in the research my confidence level has gotten stronger and this shows when I was doing my quantitative and qualitative part of the research. Also my level of confidence has grown with the final paper because I put everything together that I learned and did my best to show what I have learned over the semester.

With all the research that was done this semester and what it means to think like a researcher, I had to use all the information I had on the topic and come up with questions on how to explain my findings. The phrase think like a researcher means you have to think outside of the box and put part A and part B together to get the full picture of what part C means. In thinking like a research you have to do in small parts and at strides because if shortcuts are taken then mistakes are made.