Building a Qualifier - Position Papers

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Theory Chapter structure

1. Problem Statement
   a. What DO we know (one sentence)
      i. Start with a sentence that is solid and not controversial - that is based on solid existing knowledge
   b. Elaborate
      i. Highlight what is complicated of the 1st sentence
      ii. Maybe add a third sentence on why it is important / urgent
   c. What do DO NOT know
      i. Clearly identify the GAP
   d. Elaborate the components of the gap and why these are important (why we need to fill the gap)
      i. Tie it up to the first sentence and highlight / break it down in concepts
   e. Explicitly state Research objective (one sentence)
      i. End the section with a sentence that starts with: “This research explores”... say what you will do in this project.
2. Cool Subtitle that uses words that link to components of the problem statement (this section can be repeated)
   a. Concept 1
      i. Identify important concept
      ii. What has been said about it, engage with relevant theory / literature
      iii. Identify how you will be using the concept
      iv. Highlight the take away points - how this section can become a tool for later.
   b. Concept 2
   c. Concept 3
3. Braiding it all (Use cool subtitle that uses words that link to the board framework of the problem statement)
   a. Collect all the take away points and show how they help you to address the gap
   b. Build a tool kit of concepts that give you what you need to address the gap
      i. How the take away points of section 2 help you to better understand the gap / problem
4. Conclusion
   a. Tie it back to the introduction / problem placement
      i. How does it all tie to the gap
   b. Propose the research question
   c. Identify potential case study
      i. Clearly spell out what features / characteristics / components / attributes the case study should have to help you tackle the question
      ii. Identify the data that you need to answer the question (within the limits of the theory / literature review)
Case Study Chapter Structure

1. Problem placement
   a. Start with a sentence that reminds the reader the previous chapter: what is the problem / gap
   b. Remind the reader what are the features that a case study needs to have to answer the question
   c. Introduce the case study
      i. Summarize in a single sentence why this case study is ideal for exploring the gap/research topic/research objective (“This case study is ideal for exploring the research problem because…”)
      ii. Identify the specific features / characteristics that you will focus on (tie it to Theory Chapter 4.c.i)

2. Case study -
   a. Broad introduction to the case study
      i. Geographic location
      ii. Summary Cultural context (focusing on the relevant elements for the research question)
   b. Specific feature 1 (Tie this to Theory Chapter 4.c.1)
      i. Elaborate what is known from the case study from the feature 1 (you will use this for your analysis as existing data)
      ii. Identify what is not known (you will use this for your methods - data collection)
   c. Specific feature 2
   d. Specific feature 3 [...]

3. Research questions
   a. Return to the broad research question (Chapter 1) and break it down in sections in the context of the case study
   b. Highlight the specific data that you need to answer the question

4. Data and proxies
   a. Remind the reader what is not known about the specific features and the data that you need to answer your research question
   b. Return to the tool kit that you created in the previous chapter, and explain how you will tie them up / explore them in the case study

5. Conclusion
   a. Tie it back to the problem placement
   b. Highlight the take away points from the case study and why this case study is relevant to THE GAP
   c. Identify the data needed to answer the question
   d. Leave breadcrumbs for the Research proposal (Chapter 3).