

23rd March 2007 – The Story So Far...

“Lifelong learning and the development of conceptual-level thinking in small-business owner/managers.”

Small-firm Education

Paper 1

CLE

- Requirement / need
- Evidence of CLE
- Availability

Paper 2

CLT

“indicating the manager’s ability to *conceptualise* problems and solutions”

- Requirement / need
- Evidence of CLT?
- Acquisition of CLT

Research Questions

- Is narrative-based research useful when researching attitudes in management?
- What are SME owner/managers attitudes towards continued learning?
- Is there a link between positive attitudes towards learning and the development of CLT?

Assignment Framework ??

Introduction (1500)

Background & Relevance (750)

Research Problems (500)

Research Questions (250)

Literature Review (2500)

Key Areas Covered – 1st Tellum (250)

1st Definition (600) – Lifelong learning

2nd Definition (600) – Narrative & Auto/biographical research methods

3rd Definition (550) - Conceptual-level thinking

Research Methods and Issues (500)

Methodology (2500)

Framework (250) Ontological position

Structure (500) The structure of the overall enquiry, how the parts will fit together

Design (500)

Interviews (1000)

How interviews were conducted

Difficulties with research

How the data would be treated

Analysis Methodology (250)

Design of data analysis

Analysis & Commentary (2500)

Conclusion (1000)

Research Problems

How to get a PhD – Phillips & Pugh

- Not wanting a Doctorate
- Overestimating / Underestimating the work required
- Not having a thesis (argument)
- Taking a new job

Research Problems

Difficulties reached so far...

- Writing to an appropriate level
- Repeating work covered in previous papers
- Finding suitable subjects
- Transcription time versus transcription costs
- Large amount of transcribed data – making use

- Too rigid a framework?
- Keeping focussed when statements lead to other interesting areas

- Time, time, time...

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Research Positives

- Recognition of the main problems...
- Framework is logical and just needs filling in
- Definitions, References, Interviews are all in place
- Interview subjects are incredibly interesting...
- Possibility of future biographies