

**The Virtual Middle Grades Classroom:  
Research in Effective Pedagogy & Practice**

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A volume in **The Handbook of Research in Middle Level Education** series  
*Steven B. Mertens and Micki M. Caskey, Series Editors*

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**Chapter Outline and Guidelines for Research Handbook Chapters**

**Abstract:** (150-words)

- 1) Problem statement / Limitations of literature
- 2) Purpose of study
- 3) Methods
- 4) Overall results
- 5) Conclusion

**Introduction**

- 1) General phenomenon
- 2) Problem statements with direct connection to middle school philosophy/young adolescent development
- 3) Limitations of existing literature on middle level education
- 4) Purpose statement (e.g., The purpose of this research study is to...)

**Review of Literature**

- 1) Description of theoretical/conceptual framework
  - (a) Include definitions
  - (b) Strengths of theory/model
  - (c) Weaknesses of theory/model
- 2) Comparison to other theories/models (strengths and weaknesses)
- 3) Review of relevant literature within middle level education
- 4) Assumptions (if any)
- 5) Research questions

**Methodology**

- 1) Study design
  - (a) Quantitative (e.g., experimental, non-experimental, quasi-experimental)
  - (b) Qualitative (e.g., phenomenology, ethnography, narrative inquiry, case study)
  - (c) Mixed (e.g., exploratory, explanatory, convergent)
- 2) Study Participants (sample or population)
  - (a) Sampling method
  - (b) Sample demographics

- 3) Data collection
  - (a) Procedures (e.g., time frame, location, etc.)
  - (b) Instruments / protocols (include in an appendix)

### **Results/Findings**

- 1) Description of data analyses
  - (a) Data coding (qualitative)
  - (b) Statistical procedures (quantitative)
- 2) Description of specific findings/results from study

### **Discussion**

- 1) Discussion/explanation of how study results fit with prior research and relevant theory
- 2) Discussion/explanation of how study speaks to middle level virtual education
- 3) Discussion of study's limitations and delimitations

### **Conclusion**

- 1) Concluding remarks which may include/address the following: impact on field of virtual education, practitioners, etc.; future directions/research; lessons learned; recommendations for virtual teaching and learning

### **References**

- APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition format
- Current/accurate hyperlinks

### **Appendices**

- Include copies of all data collection protocols (e.g., surveys, interview questions)

## **Chapter Submission Guidelines**

Manuscripts should not exceed 30 pages (inclusive of all references and appendices) and should follow the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Manuscripts will be submitted electronically (as MS Word documents) and must be double-spaced with one-inch margins. Specific research methodologies and approaches including study participants, data collection protocols, and data analyses need to be described. On a separate page, include the author(s) name, professional title, institutional affiliation, and all contact information (phone, mailing address, email). Do not insert headers or footers into the manuscript. Insert page numbers in upper right-hand corner. Include a 150-word abstract. Tables and figures should be inserted in the text where appropriate. Manuscripts need to follow the accompanying *Outline for Research Handbook Chapter* document.