FEEDBACK TUTORIAL LETTER

1ST SEMESTER 2019

ASSIGNMENT 1

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RME 410S
MEMORANDUM FOR THE FIRST TUTORIAL LETTER
FIRST SEMESTER 2019

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RME 410S

29 March 2019

Mrs. I. Manuel
Dear Student,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the completion and submission of your first assignment on Research Methodology. I strongly believe that you have had a rewarding experience so far about this course.

This feedback tutorial letter provides me with the opportunity to dialogue with you and advise you on your performance on this first assignment. I hope this will reinforce your learning on what has been covered in this marked assignment while offering you constructive suggestions as you go towards the completion of this course. I therefore advise you to read and attempt to understand the content of this feedback tutorial letter. I have provided comments and hints on the expected quality of responses for each question.

General observations

There are several important points that you need to take into consideration such as:

- **Proper language usage**: there were several grammatical mistakes that I noted in your submissions. In some cases, some of you were using long and winding sentences which made it difficult for me to read and comprehend the gist of the matter. I encourage you to proof read your work and use short sentences.

- It was clear that some of the assignments were completed in a hurry and thus not enough time was spent on additional research to ensure that you were on track.
• It is expected that any student on this level should be able to apply their theoretical knowledge gained from books to practical situations and not quote theory verbatim and expect to earn marks – but this still happens.

• Some students copied directly from other publications and made it their own work, this is not tolerated, and it is not acceptable. Copying directly from the study guide is also not permitted thus please refrain from doing it.

• **Use of sources:** Where you cite any references, remember to acknowledge them very well in your list of bibliography. The Namibia University of Science and Technology makes use of the APA Style of referencing and this is highly recommended. Most of you neglected this component. Several instances were observed where in-text references lacked; instances of references mentioned in-text but not acknowledged in the bibliography were observed; Most of you did not make use of the APA style of referencing.

Another point which I want to stress is the use of WIKIPEDIA as a source of reference; Guys I don’t want to see in your reference list that WIKIPEDIA is used as a source of reference. I advise that you read from Wikipedia to get information and search for credible journal articles or books to use as reference.

Also, please understand the difference between a bibliography and a reference list. APA referencing requires only a reference list which means that you only include the references quoted in text on your reference list and not all sources of information that you have pursued to get information. When you are doing a higher degree, you might be required to do a bibliography which requires you to put all the sources you have consulted whether you have used them in your text. Thus, please understand this difference and remember that I only want to see a reference list which is the references that you are quoted in text.
I cannot stress the importance of referencing enough, as in the academy referencing is a requirement that is non-negotiable. Referencing gives credit to authors who have been consulted, but it also keeps you safe from possible charges of plagiarism. A further reason for proper referencing is that it allows the reader of your work to find sources with minimum difficulty for verification or to follow leads. I will strongly recommend that you familiarize yourself with the APA referencing style, as many of you lost marks due to the non-compliance to this requirement.

Below is a screen shot of an easier way to do the APA referencing on Microsoft Word, I trust that this will make referencing easier for you.

Green, 2016)

Bibliography
On Microsoft Word, you go to referencing tab, select APA sixth edition, insert citation, type your source of reference, and it will create the in-text referencing and whenever you must insert a new source, click on insert citation. When you are done, click on bibliography and it will throw out your sources used on APA style of referencing. Contact me if you are not sure on how to do this or if you do not come right.

- **Academic Writing Skills**: Please go to the eLearning platform and access the materials as I have put a copy of an academic writing presentation on there as well and go through it. At this level I expect you to write in a formal, objective and accurate tone and not in the first person. You need to improve your writing skills to ensure that you can write a proper research project.

- **Mark Allocation**: I urge you to please look at the marks allocated per question and structure your answer accordingly. You cannot for a 20-mark question write half a page and expect 20 marks thus use your own judgement by looking at the mark allocation and structure your answer accordingly. Read what the question expects from you and answer accordingly, some of you go off topic and this result in less marks achieved. For the next assignment please ensure that you reference adequately and as per the APA guidelines.

**Assignment one: Feedback**

**Question 1**

The question has asked of you to define research in your own understanding and discuss the basic components and characteristics of research. When I say own understanding, I want to read what you have read in an academic context and paraphrase or summarized and not informal subjective writing. Research has many definitions, and this has been highlighted throughout the study guide and additional materials that you might have read. A definition in its simplest form is *the systematic investigation into and study of materials and sources to establish facts and reach new conclusions*. Many of you had
more elaborative answer which I appreciated. The characteristics of research has been clearly spelled out in the study guide (page 12-13) but I appreciate those who went the extra mile and include other than what was given in the study guide.

**Question 2**

In this question I asked you to distinguish the similarities and differences of scientific versus non-scientific method of acquiring data. You went to great extent to read additional sources to answer this question. On page 14 of the case guide, it is clearly indicated the non-scientific approach to acquiring knowledge. The scientific method is described in the below picture. I did however ask you to do this is a table format separating the differences and similarities of these methods and many of you did this, well done. However, some of you did not look at the mark allocation and either went to the extreme and did very little to complete the question. Please as mentioned above let the mark allocation guide when completing assignments.
Question 3

Here I asked you about the approaches/methods of data collection in qualitative research. Some of you misunderstood the question and thus did not get marks for your answer. The methods broadly are interviews, observations and focus groups. Questionnaires are not a method of data collection in qualitative research thus please read your questions carefully before attempting to answer. Well done to those who have provided such lengthy and well researched answers.

Concluding Remarks

Thank you for those who have done tremendous effort in the completion of the first assignment.

I hope this feedback will assist you to identify your weak areas and work on them diligently while building on your strengths. I encourage you to take note of this advice as you prepare for the next assignment. Please note that you have been assigned research supervisor and the idea is that you work together with your research supervisor in the completion of assignment two and subsequently carry on working together for the research project next semester. If you have any queries do not hesitate to contact me.

I wish you the best of luck for the next assignment!!!!!!!!!!!!!