

2017 NWS: CRITERIA AND SCORING FORM: Round 1

Reviewer Name: _____ Dissertation # _____

Score on a 0 to 5 scale in each of the following areas, where 5 is exemplary work. (You can use the same scores more than once.)

- _____ 1) **INTRODUCTION AND PROBLEM STATEMENT**
- Does the Introduction make it immediately clear to readers what problem or question the research addresses?
 - Does the Introduction make a convincing argument about why the problem is important to study?
- _____ 2) **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND KEY ELEMENTS OF PREVIOUS RESEARCH**
- Does the research have a strong theoretical foundation or is it largely descriptive?
 - Does the literature provide a thorough and appropriate review of relevant comm. literature?
 - Does the literature review provide a thorough and appropriate review of relevant literature from other fields?
 - Do the Research Questions and hypotheses clearly follow from the previous research reviewed in the study?
- _____ 3) **METHOD**
- Is the methodology appropriate?
 - Are techniques for testing the hypotheses or exploring the research questions properly and rigorously applied?
 - Are the samples/data studied appropriate to the questions being asked?
 - Does the author clearly explain his/her method so that the study can be replicated?
 - Might other methods have been better?
- _____ 4) **FINDINGS**
- Are the findings of the study clearly explained?
 - Does the interpretation of the data appear accurate?
 - Do the data support the findings claimed or does the author claim findings beyond what the data show?
 - Is there a clear connection between the findings and the research questions/hypotheses posed?
 - Do the findings make a new contribution to knowledge in the field of mass communication research?
 - Are the findings important?
- _____ 5) **CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION**
- Are the conclusions and discussion clearly explained?
 - Do conclusions and discussion follow logically from the findings?
 - Do conclusions and discussion explain clearly how findings contribute to development of the study's theory?
 - Do the conclusions and discussion explain clearly how the findings contribute in other ways to communication or mass communication research, practice or industries?
 - Are the limitations of the study fully and accurately identified and explained?
 - Are important future lines of research that would extend the study identified?
- _____ 6) **STATEMENT OF IMPORTANCE TO THE FIELD**
- Are the findings of the dissertation significant for mass communication research?
 - Do the findings tell us something that is important to know and that we did not already know?
 - Is the work located within a theoretical or conceptual framework?
 - Is the work too narrow or too broad?
 - Is the argument interesting and compelling?
- _____ 7) **CLARITY**
- Is the dissertation understandable?
 - Are the generalizations clearly stated and logically developed?
 - Could someone who is not a specialist in the field follow the argument?
 - Is the writing good?
- _____ 8) **POTENTIAL FOR PUBLICATION**
- Is the work good enough to merit publication in a scholarly journal or in book form without substantial changes?
- _____ **TOTAL SCORE (Place this number on the sheet with the rankings)**

Please list any comments you might find useful when comparing the dissertations.
Email as attachment to **Tim Vos** at vost@missouri.edu by Feb 27th.