**Master of Arts Child and Youth Care, Ryerson University**

**Major Research Paper Proposal Worksheet**

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| **Introduction** |  |
| What topic or problem will your MRP focus on? Why is the problem/issue important (e.g., to society, young people, CYC, etc.)? |  |
| What are your goals and objectives for the study? |  |
| **Theoretical Framework and Literature Review** |  |
| What are the main theoretical framework(s) that will guide your study? |  |
| What are the main points in the current literature? Who are leading scholars on your topic? |  |
| **Research Questions** |  |
| What are your main MRP research question(s) |  |
| **Methods** |  |
| Research Methodology and Design (What type of methodology/design will you use? What is your rationale for using the design?) |  |
| Sample (What is the sample size?) |  |
| Data collection (What strategies and tool(s) will you use to collect data?) |  |

### Scope of Major Research Paper (MRP)

The Major Research Paper (MRP) allows students to conduct specialized study of a topic in Child and Youth Care. It is the longest, most in-depth paper you will write in the program, and should therefore be on a subject of great interest to you. As this is a graduate program specifically in the field of Child and Youth Care, you must be able to articulate concretely the connection between your topic and the field. The range of acceptable research topics and methodologies is broad. Your research paper may be primary research, a case study, a discourse analysis, meta-analysis, or may take the form of a theoretical paper.

Unlike a Master’s *Thesis*, an MRP need not involve original research. It may take the form of a critical or systematic review of the literature in a field, the exploration or synthesis of various points of view in a subject area, a work-based analysis, a policy review and analysis, or a pilot study for a larger project. In cases where primary research with human participants is planned, the research is subject to ethics review and approval by the Ryerson Research Ethics Board (discussed further under the Ethics Review section.)

The MRP is a research paper that must stand on its own and demonstrate to the supervisor and examiners that the student can pursue independent scholarly work and articulate findings or theoretical insights clearly and in depth.

### In your MRP, you must:

* demonstrate the ability to work independently in a scholarly manner;
* focus on a single, manageable issue that is genuinely important to the field of Child and Youth Care;
* take “real world” constraints into account (that is, avoid proposing research that cannot be carried out);
* offer logically defensible answers to questions of professional interest or propose policy or program solutions to a specific problem; and
* write a concise document in a professional style that is accessible to both experts and non-experts.

**You are encouraged to be inspired to:**

* contribute new knowledge in the field of Child and Youth Care;
* demonstrate critical engagement with complex materials; and
* reflect on issues of social justice, equity and inclusion.

Regardless of your topic, the key to a successful MRP is developing a tight, clear focus for your research. You should be able to identify a few key questions that are the focus of your MRP. Be clear on the scope or boundaries of your research - and do not panic if this takes a while to develop. Typically, this is an evolving process that entails your coursework and conversations you may have with course instructors, the program director, and ultimately your MRP supervisor.

In summary, an MRP will demonstrate a student's ability to work independently in applying a child and youth care lens to a particular problem in a particular setting, and to develop policy proposals or programs to deal with demonstrated needs. It will be written under the guidance of a faculty supervisor, presented to faculty and graduate students, and evaluated by the supervisor and a second reader.