- [Instructor] This presentation will focus on developing a problem and purpose statement for your dissertation. In this presentation, we'll discuss developing a well-structured problem statement and purpose for your study. Although the School of Advanced Studies does not require students to use a mandatory format or template when writing their problem section, the guidance presented in this presentation will assist you in understanding how a research problem is defined and what is expected in this section. Additionally, we will focus on creating your purpose section. By the end of this presentation, you should have a good understanding of how to develop and align your research problem statement and purpose. Polit and Beck stated that a problem statement articulates the problem and an argument that explains the need for that study. The problem is the foundation for your study and should be developed before the purpose is developed. The problem should be an existing and cited societal issue. For example, low high school graduation rates, small business failures, high foreclosure rates, recurrent IT issues, the need for health care in developing nations, and lack of technology in classroom environments are existing societal issues. The problem must be cited by literature, as literature supports that the problem exists and validates the need to conduct the study. Consider the following questions. What is not going well with your field of study? What might be improved? Creating context for the problem is essential in developing your problem statement. Pay close attention to gaps in knowledge discussed in previous research and recommendations for future research in the final chapter of published dissertations. When reflecting on the knowledge gap, consider whether the gap is occurring because of the lack of topic or subject knowledge and whether the problem can be addressed by collecting and analyzing additional data. The problem statement should tell a complete story with regard to why the study's important. The problem statement should be able to stand alone. The reader should be able to understand the problem to be addressed in the dissertation with no prior knowledge of the subject and without having read any other sections of the paper. To develop a problem statement, introduce the problem by providing some background information. After presenting some background, explicitly state the problem. The problem is... Ensure that the problem is cited. Support the problem by addressing the impact or adversity of the problem with citations. The following guidelines should be used in problem statement development. The problem statement should be concise and under one page. The problem must reflect an existing and published issue and must be cited. The citations should be academic sources whenever possible. If the problem is limited to a specific organization, then the problem can be supported by personal communication. Include statistics supporting the existence of the problem, if possible, and ensure that the statistics are recent. Use the most recent publication year available. Finally, do not confuse the problem statement with the purpose statement. Ensure that the problem section focuses on the issue driving the study, not on the purpose or objectives of the study. Once the problem statement is developed, the purpose section can be created. The two statements must align. The purpose statement must mirror the problem. Meaning that the objective should be to examine or address the stated problem through collection and analysis of data from specific sources or participants. The most important part of this brief section, which is typically only one paragraph, is the first sentence. This sentence should convey the method, qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods, the design, and the study objectives in one clear sentence. Ensure that you are clearly stating why the study will be accomplished. Looking at the rest of the paragraph after the first sentence, you should define the general population, geographical location, the objectives of the study, and a brief overview of how these objectives will be met. If you are conducting a quantitative or mixed method study, you must also include your variables. The methodology must also be reflected in the purpose. For example, if you are conducting a grounded theory study, then your objectives must also include development of a theory or a theoretical model. If you are conducting a phenomenological study, then your purpose must include a type of phenomenology and must focus on lived experiences. If you are conducting a case study, then your purpose must include a type of case and must reflect the use of multiple sources of data. If you are conducting a quantitative or mixed method study, you must also include
your variables. For further information on developing purpose statements, research questions, or hypotheses, please visit the resources provided. Also, review recent dissertations from the University of Phoenix and other universities for examples of these elements for qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research studies. Thanks for viewing this presentation.