

Proposal of Field Research Study

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## **Proposal**

A Phenomenological Study: Slack Engagement Between Professor-Student Relationships and Communication

### **Description of the Study**

The phenomenological study will explore the engagement between professor and student communication for the coding courses at a public university in Jersey City, NJ. This study will examine the usage of the Slack app and the engagement between professor and student relationships and communication. The researcher identifies the coding courses with the usage of Slack as a communication medium between professors and students for course updates, assignments, resources, and questions and answers forum. The researcher will conduct interviews with both students and professors to describe the experience of engagement and communication on Slack in coding courses.

### **Data Collection**

This study incorporated the lived experiences of two professors and eight students who voluntarily expressed their willingness to share engagement experiences. Purposeful sampling used for data collection as it seeks information-rich personal accounts which can be studied in depth (Patton, 2015). Patton (2015) discusses to gather such data require in-depth interviews with participants who have experienced the phenomenon. The sample size will be ten, in the range for a phenomenological approach (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). Data collected through interviews using an open-ended approach. The hour-long interview conducted through in-person or phone interviews. The potential issue is the drop out of the participants during the research.

### **Research Questions**

1. How do students perceive their involvement with Slack as an engagement and communication tool?
2. How do professors perceive their involvement with Slack as an engagement and communication tool?
3. How do students view their experience with Slack?
4. How do professors view their experience with Slack?

### **Need for this Study**

There is a shortage of students interested in study coding and heading towards this career path. Also, it is challenging to get students to increase engagement levels with professors after classes for coding courses. The researcher thinks the use of Slack will impact the engagement and communication level between students and professors in coding courses. This study is critical because student-professor communication is crucial to keep students engaged in the course. The student to professor class ratio creates a barrier for the professor to answer and cover all questions posted during the lecture. The app assists in addressing any issues and problems.

### **Research Type**

The research design is a qualitative phenomenological approach, where the researcher describes the experiences of individuals about a phenomenon as noted by participants (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). This research design used in this study to incorporated the lived experiences

of professors and students who voluntarily expressed their willingness to share Slack engagement experiences.

### **Interview Questions**

Interview Questions (Appendix A)

References

Creswell, J. W. & Creswell, J. D. (2018). Research Design Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed

Methods Approach Fifth Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Patton, M. Q. (2015). Qualitative research and evaluation methods. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage

Publications.

## Appendix A

### Interview Questions for Students

- What success have you encountered with the use of Slack as a communication tool?
- What success have you encountered with the use of Slack as an engagement tool?
- What barriers did you experience when engaging with the professor through Slack?
- What communication challenges with the professor through Slack?
- What are the critical features and functions of Slack?

### Interview Questions for Professors

- What success have you encountered with the use of Slack as a communication tool?
- What success have you encountered with the use of Slack as an engagement tool?
- What barriers did you experience when engaging with the student through Slack?
- What communication challenges with the student through Slack?
- What are the critical features and functions of Slack?