

## Appendix P. Sample Critical Incident Instrument

---

### Critical Incident

In reflecting on the time that you have been enrolled in your doctoral program, please recall one particular occasion while working on your dissertation that you felt frustrated or ill prepared:

In 1–2 short paragraphs, please describe that experience:

- What were you trying to achieve?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What were you thinking you should/could do to move forward?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How, if at all, did you overcome this impasse in your work?

Thank you very much! Your perceptions are very helpful to us in trying to understand the “dissertation experience.”