# Template for the Statement of the Problem

The Statement of the Problem (SoP) must identify a specific problem that is not being addressed in the literature or is not clearly understood or, in a PhD study, not clearly explained by theory. **This template can be used to formulate the Statement of the Problem section. Limit the first 3 sections to 1-2 sentences maximum, cited with current peer-reviewed work. As you add to these sections, put a page number with the sources used just as a temporary reference. This forces you to relate what you are writing to a particular quote or quotes in the source and will improve your accuracy with citations. Make sure what you write is what the author was describing.**

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| ***Part*** | ***Brief Narrative*** |
| ***1. Describe the ideal situation, how things should be when working correctly. Provide supporting citations.*** |  |
| ***Possible transition phrases: “However,”   “…but…”  “Unfortunately,” “The problem is…”*** | |
| ***2. Describe and document, the actual situation, what is “going wrong” (Ellis & Levy, 2008).*** |  |
| ***Possible transition phrases: “Consequently,”  “As a result…” “If the problem is not addressed…”*** | |
| ***3. Describe the consequences that will result if the problem persists. Provide supporting citations.*** |  |
| ***4. Discuss 3 current, supporting studies that recommend further research about the problem described in Step 2.*** |  |