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ARE546
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23 November 2025
Revised Positionality Statement

Positionality Statement:

Being a white woman is what informs most of my privilege. While I experience challenges like every person, I feel confident that none of them are due to my race. I think it is essential to acknowledge the privilege I have when considering my positionality, because there are many cultures and identities that are not afforded the same privilege, understanding, or respect. I am a cisgender, white, depressed, married mother of five. I am a former artist and a millennial. Of all the qualities about me, I believe that my identity as a mother takes precedence over most aspects of my life, as parenthood not only drives me, but also shapes my daily experiences, given the physical, social, and emotional needs of my children. My mental health experiences inform my positionality because they give me a better point of connection when learning about others. I was raised by artists, which largely informed my formative years and subsequent adult life. My experiences growing up around art have been the most significant influence on my beliefs about art and multiculturalism. I have always had an appreciation for other cultures and have wanted to learn about them because of my father and his history with art and multiculturalism. Before my father was an artist, he was a civil rights activist, and he carried his values throughout the majority of my childhood and life. Because he was so proud to fight for other cultures, he instilled in me a strong sense of justice, which informs my interest in working in the arts and education.

Subjectivity Statement:

Being that I believe myself to be a fairly innocuous person, my initial instinct is to say that my position in society doesn't inform my research. However, I know that this is false. Being a white woman raised with an interest in the arts, I have to admit there are biases when it comes

to research practice. I am hesitant to view other cultures in a negative light, mainly due to the limited cultural background that informs my perspective. Given (2008) notes that subjectivity helps "researchers identify how their personal features, experiences, beliefs, feelings, cultural standpoints, and professional predispositions may affect their research." While it may feel disarming to say this, as a researcher, it is crucial to remain unbiased; however, I must acknowledge that my personal history has informed my positionality. My personhood is bound by my experiences as a mother, an artist, and a person who suffers from depression. I will always view research data through these lenses because they shape how I perceive the world. While I cannot know specifically what those biases will look like, my subjectivity as a mother would be very different from what it would be if I had never experienced motherhood. If I were to make an educated guess, I would say it is likely that I would view research data with a certain "softness" or willingness to make allowances that I might not otherwise consider. Similar to behavioral health challenges, these challenges can skew behavior and, therefore, have the potential to affect research data. In this way, my subjectivity has the potential to compensate for bias in research, while also presenting a challenge to impartiality.

References

Given, L. M. (2008). Subjectivity statement. *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Qualitative Research Methods*. <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781412963909.n439>

Reflection:

For this assignment, I used Grammarly for Education and ChatGPT to aid in editing and revising my positionality and subjectivity statements. I found them, despite being LLMs, to be helpful in their own ways. ChatGPT was helpful in reworking the flow of my statements, while Grammarly was helpful in focusing on grammar and voice. I think that AI can be a really helpful tool when editing work because it is able to find those little tweaks that take an assignment from being good to being excellent. The challenge in revision of this assignment, because the content is so personally relevant, is actually in the editing. It's important during the revision and editing process to make sure the changes I'm making do not affect the meaning of the point I am trying to convey. In the future, I think I will likely utilize one or both of these tools in editing my work because it made the revision process easy and functional, helping me to see what mistakes I commonly make and helping me make those changes during the first draft process.