The RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Preparation for the Research

- Think about it
- Generate ideas
- Background reading
- Ask yourself
  - Am I familiar with other research that has been conducted in areas related to my research project?
  - Do I have a clear understanding of the steps that I will use in conducting my research?
 - Do I have the ability to go through each step?

What is a proposal ?

- **Document** that is typically written by a scientist or academic which describes the **ideas** for an investigation on a certain **topic**.

- The **research** proposal **outlines** the **process** from beginning to end and may be used to request **financing** for the **project**, **certification** for performing certain **parts** of research of the **experiment**, or as a **required** **task** before beginning a college **dissertation**.

Writing Thesis/Dissertation Proposals: The Big Picture
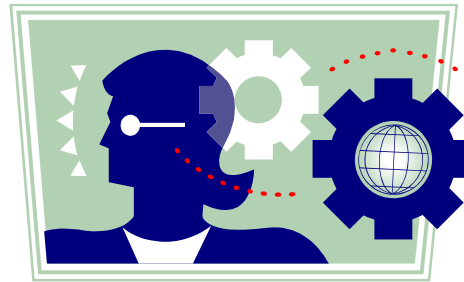
Your proposal describes your proposed plan of work:

- <u>What</u> you intend to study (scope and research questions).
- <u>How</u> you intend to study your topic (methodology).
- <u>Why</u> this topic needs to be studied (significance).
- <u>When</u> you will complete this work (timeline).
- (Occasionally) <u>Where</u> you will conduct this work.

Structure of the Proposal

1. Title
2. Introduction: Background to the problem or study
3. Literature Review
4. Problem statement
5. Research Questions
6. Objectives of research
7. Scope and limitation of study
8. Methodology
9. Proposed schedule/chapter Divisions
10. Significance of study
11. References

1.Title

- A good proposal has **a good title**
- It is the first thing that helps the reader begin to understand the nature of work
  - It should pointed ,short ,clear and focused
  - It should Highlight the main contribution of the research work (**Avoid a topic without a point or purpose**)
  - It should contain well selected and expressive keywords (**Neither too broad nor too narrow**)

2.Introduction

- Convince the reader that you have identified a research problem, worthy of investigating.

- **Provides the background or the situation the reader may need.**

A general review of the area of research. It explains the writer's motive, intention or purpose in discussing his or her topic, and its scope and focus.

•It establishes the general territory (real world or research).

• It describes the broad foundations of your study—provide sufficient background for readers.

• It Indicates the general scope of your project.

- **It ends with the   THESIS STATEMENT**

3.Literature Review

- Selecting Sources
  - √ Select literature that is relevant or closely related to the problem and purpose
  - √ Emphasize the primary sources
  - √ Use secondary sources selectively
  - √ Concentrate on scholarly research articles
  - √ Discuss your criteria for inclusion of articles

A literature review

- is "a critical summary and assessment of the range of existing materials dealing with knowledge and understanding in a given field.

- The purpose of the literature review is

- to integrate your study into a broader framework of relevant theory and research. To achieve this, you have to, as a first draft, summarize recent/authoritative literature on the proposed research problem as it relates to the stated research problem.

- At this stage you may also indicate shortcomings in previous literature or lack of knowledge about the topic you intend to research. This will help you decide on your own conceptual/theoretical/methodological strategies and on how your own study may contribute to improvements in this regard. Hence you ASK

- **What contributions will my study make to the existing literature?**

Writing The Literature(cont...)

- The literature should have an introduction, body and conclusion

- The introduction defines the framework of the review, the body evaluates the literature and the conclusion summarizes the current state of knowledge on the problem

- Organize the review of Lit by topics or ideas, not by author

- Organize the review logically (least to most relevant – evolution of topic –by key variables)

- Discuss major studies/theories individually and minor studies with similar results or limitation as a group

4.Problem Statement

- Start with a general statement of the problem or issues

- Make sure the problem is restricted in scope

- Make sure the context of the problem is clear

- Provide justification for the research to be conducted

- Highlight the problems/demerits of the available techniques and state the gaps you are going to fill.

5.Statement of the Problem

- Answer the question: **"What is the gap that needs to be filled?" and/or "What is the problem that needs to be solved?"**

- State the problem clearly early in a paragraph.

- Limit the variables you address in stating your problem or question.

- Consider framing the problem as a question. (This should be one or two paragraphs.)

6.Research questions

- Research questions would guide the proposed research into the perspective of the other research.
- The questions serve to establish the link between the proposed research with previous research.
- The research questions should show clearly the relationship of the proposed research with the field of study.

- **(Use your objectives to formulate research questions.) For each objective there should be a corresponding question.**

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7. Objectives of the Research

Provide a clear statement of the *overall question-* General objective

Follow it with action oriented tasks - Specific objectives.

1. If more than one specific objective state them sequentially

2. Formulate objectives

   Use action-oriented words - To demonstrate; To evaluate; To investigate how-

   Avoid weak verbs as to show,to state,to list,to mention that do not add in depth.

8.Scope and Limitations of the study

- you should put what you intend to cover, thats the scope... the limitation is where you list your materials, place where you will do it, any problems that might limit your work (money,sthg not achieved,a programmed person for interview not interviewed, questionnaires not completed, time insufficient,lack of transports,analysis not properly achieved, sources not available,etc.)

9.Methodology

1. It describes how the study will be conducted
2. It relates to the research objectives,
3. It highlights the breadth and depth of research,
4. It identifies variables, projects an idea about research design,
5. It highlights the approach and methods adopted with valid justification of their use (descriptive, historical, analytical, exploratory, qualitative, quantitative, comparative ,triangular.etc.)
6. It **gives an overview about data collection plan,analysis,measurement**

Methodology (cont...)

- **Procedure:**

- Describes the instruments that will be used to gather data (tests, techniques, surveys, primary,secondary sources etc...)

- It tells when, how, where and by whom the data will be collected

Break it down to step-by-step process

10.Proposed schedule/ Chapter Divisions

Take Time Now To Save Time Later!

Why Write An Outline?

1. It will help you organize all of the ideas running around your brain!

2. It will allow you to find any gaps in your research or ideas early enough to fix them. .

3. Teachers are often willing to look over an outline for you to make sure that you are on the right track!

11.Significance of research

- From the literature review, gap analysis can be conducted in order to see how the proposed research would fill in the gap in the area of research.

- How does the proposed research relate to the existing knowledge in the area.

- Explicitly state the significance of your purpose or the rationale for your study. A significant research is one that:

  √ **Develops knowledge of an existing practise**
  √ **Develops theory**
  √ **Expands the current knowledge or theory base**
  √ **Advances current research methodology**
  √ **Exploratory research on an unexamined issue**

12. Work cited

- References (APA) or Works Cited page (MLA) should appear at the end of paper
- Example of entry:
  - DePree, M. (1989) *Leadership is an art.* New York: Doubleday. (APA format)
  - DePree, M. <u>Leadership is an Art</u>. New York: Doubleday, 1989. (MLA format)
- All entries are listed in alphabetical order
- Numbers are not used in the referen,ce or work cited list

DON'T PLAGIARIZE

"I plagiarized it because I thought it bears repeating."

Thank you