

HOW TO WRITE A RESEARCH PROPOSAL: CHECKLIST EXAMPLE

✓ TITLE

- THE TITLE EFFECTIVELY SUMMARIZES THE MAIN RESEARCH IDEA.
- IS IT CLEAR TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.
- IT IS COMPELLING TO ACADEMIC RESEARCHERS AND OTHER GRADUATE STUDENTS.
- IT FULLY EXPLAINS THE INDEPENDENT AND DEPENDENT VARIABLES.
- IT AVOIDS ABBREVIATIONS AND EXCESSIVE ARTICLE (GRAMMAR) USAGE.

✓ INTRODUCTION & RESEARCH BACKGROUND

- WHAT ARE THE RESEARCH PROBLEM, RESEARCH QUESTION, AND PURPOSE OF THE STUDY?
- WHAT IS THE RATIONALE BEHIND MY STUDY? WHY IS ANSWERING THE RESEARCH QUESTION IMPORTANT?
- WHAT ARE THE MAJOR ISSUES YOUR RESEARCH WILL ADDRESS?
- WHAT ARE THE MAJOR CHALLENGES IN ANSWERING THE RESEARCH QUESTION?
- DID YOU HIGHLIGHT OR CLARIFY THE RESEARCH DISCREPANCIES?
- THE THESIS STATEMENT IS CLEARLY STATED

✓ SIGNIFICANCE OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL

- THE RESEARCH RESULTS FILL A DEFINED GAP IN THE KNOWLEDGE.
- THE PROPOSAL WILL ADVANCE UNDERSTANDING OF THE SUBJECT.
- THE RESEARCH RESULTS WILL LEAD TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF COMMONLY USED EXPERIMENTAL MODELS AND METHODS IN THE FUTURE.
- THE RESEARCH RESULTS WILL YIELD NOVEL FINDINGS THAT HAVE ACADEMIC AND/OR PRACTICAL VALUE.

✓ LITERATURE REVIEW

- LIST YOUR PRIMARY SOURCES.
- LIST YOUR SECONDARY SOURCES.
- DISCUSS INFLUENTIAL RESEARCH PAPERS, PARADIGMS, MODALITIES.
- WHAT IS LACKING IN WELL-ACCEPTED RESEARCH PARADIGMS IN YOUR RESEARCH FIELD?
- WHAT ARE THE MAIN THEORIES, METHODS, AND CONTROVERSIES IN YOUR RESEARCH FIELD?
- HOW DOES YOUR RESEARCH QUESTION OR PROBLEM TIE INTO THE CURRENT LITERATURE? DOES IT EXTEND A CURRENT IDEA OR RUN COUNTER TO IT?

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✓ THEORETICAL METHODOLOGY & DESIGN

- EXPLAIN WHETHER YOUR RESEARCH METHOD WILL BE A STUDY OR EXPERIMENT.
- IS YOUR RESEARCH FOR A PHD DISSERTATION OR MASTER'S PROGRAM?
- EXPLAIN THE THEORETICAL RESOURCES MOTIVATING YOUR CHOICE OF METHODS.
- EXPLAIN HOW PARTICULAR METHODS ENABLE YOU TO ANSWER YOUR RESEARCH QUESTION.
- CREDIT ANY COLLEAGUES OR OTHER RESEARCHERS YOU WILL COLLABORATE WITH.
- EXPLAIN THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF YOUR CHOSEN METHODOLOGY.
- WHAT IS THE TIMELINE OF YOUR RESEARCH EXPERIMENT OR STUDY?
- COMPARE/CONTRAST YOUR RESEARCH DESIGN WITH THAT OF THE LITERATURE AND OTHER RESEARCH ON YOUR TOPIC.
- ARE THERE ANY DIFFERENT OR ALTERNATIVE METHODS OR MATERIALS THAT WILL BE USED?

✓ DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

- EXPLAIN THE LIMITATIONS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE PROPOSED RESEARCH.
- EXPLAIN HOW ANY POTENTIAL WEAKNESSES WOULD BE JUSTIFIED BY EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH AS TIME AND FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS.
- WHAT, IF ANY, ALTERNATIVE RESEARCH QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS NATURALLY CAN BE ANSWERED IN THE FUTURE?
- HOW DOES THE RESEARCH STRENGTHEN, SUPPORT, OR CHALLENGE A CURRENT THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK OR MODEL?

✓ REFERENCES & BIBLIOGRAPHY

- PROVIDE A COMPLETE LIST OF REFERENCES FOR ALL CITED STATEMENTS.
- MAKE SURE CITATIONS ARE IN THE CORRECT FORMAT (APA, CHICAGO, MLA, ETC.)
- REFERENCES ARE PRESENT IN THE INTRODUCTION, LITERATURE REVIEW, AND METHODOLOGY SECTIONS.