

Research Proposal - Template:

1 Introduction

Your introduction should provide the background or the skeleton of the paper. You are establishing your basic framework for research. You should probably have a few subsections in the introduction. (Background information and Problem statement at least)

- a You can grab the attention of the reader with your topic.
- b You should provide brief background information.
- c You will fully describe the problem that is related to your topic of research.

2 Purpose of the Study

- a You will need to provide a well-rounded, intelligent and substantial statement on why the research that you are doing needs to be done. Why is this research necessary? What is your research objective?
- b What are the concrete research questions?

3 Literature Review

In this section you explore past research related to your research questions!

- a Who dealt with similar research questions already?
- b What are the main findings and how did the authors get there? (Theory, Methodology)
- c Does the literature provide recommendations for your own research strategy? Is there any theory or methodology that seems to be appropriate for your own research?

4 Theory

Explain the theory behind the research.

- a Your application of the theory (your model) has to be introduced in detail.
- b You need to derive your hypothesis from the theoretical approach here (expected answers to your research questions)

5 Methods and Procedures

This section will tell exactly which methods you will use in order to test your hypothesis.

- a What are the key variables that you will test and/or control in order to prove your hypothesis (what are your indicators?)

- b Provide a detailed discussion of whether you will be doing quantitative or qualitative research – what is appropriate for getting answers to the research questions and to test your hypothesis?
- c What kind of data do you want to collect and how will you get hold of your (quantitative or qualitative) data (survey, interview, questionnaire, etc.)?
- d What will be your sampling method and why?
- e How do you want to analyze the data in order to get your results?

6 Limitations/Problems

This section will discuss any limitations or problems that may arise in your research.

7 References

Do not forget that every academic sound proposal has references. All references given in the text must be mentioned here in alphabetical order!

8 Time plan (research can be planned to be conducted for a minimum of 6 weeks to a maximum of 4,5 months (18 weeks), but the time plan and the feasibility will be subject to the review as well.

9 Budget plan (according to the template)