

Guideline for Writing a Research Proposal

A research proposal aims to persuade others that your project is valuable and that you possess the skills and plan necessary to successfully complete it. Typically, it should include all the components of the research process and provide enough detail for readers to assess the proposed study. Every research proposal should answer these key questions: What do you aim to achieve? Why is it important? How will you carry it out?

Outline

The suggested outline below serves as a guideline and includes the elements typically required in a research proposal. It is a flexible model that can be adapted as needed.

1. Cover page: it should identify the proposed project's title which should be simple and brief. A model is suggested below:

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
Mohamed Kheider University of Biskra
Faculty of Economics, Commerce and Management Sciences
Commerce Department



**Title of the project (centered, in bold type
and double spaced)**

A research proposal presented to the Department of Commerce as partial fulfilment for the Bachelor's Degree in Finance and international Trade

Submitted by:

Supervised by:

January 2025

2. Table of contents

3. Introduction.

At the end of this single paragraph, we need to know:

- The problem at the core of your project (one or two sentences),
- Sub-questions
- significance of the study (one sentence),
- the purpose of the study (one sentence)
- the hypothesis or hypotheses

4. Literature Review

The goal of a literature review is to position your research within the existing body of knowledge on a topic. It should demonstrate how your work contributes to the broader understanding of the subject. The review provides a theoretical

foundation, highlights previous studies, and establishes the groundwork for your research. It should convey that you have thoroughly explored, understood, and integrated the relevant literature. Ideally, it progresses from broader concepts to more specific studies, ensuring all content remains pertinent.

In simple terms, a literature review should address these key points:

- What is already understood about the research problem?
- What gaps exist in the current knowledge?
- How does the proposed research align with and contribute to this context?
- What value will the proposed research add to academic understanding and how will it enhance current practices?

5. Statement of the Problem

The problem statement forms the foundation of any research proposal, guiding the development of research objectives, hypotheses, and study design. It allows the researcher to systematically articulate the issue, assess its importance, and justify the need for the study. A problem is typically defined as a gap or issue in existing literature, theory, or practice that necessitates further investigation (Creswell, 1994, p. 50). An effective problem statement addresses the question: Why is this research necessary? This is where you highlight the gaps in the current body of knowledge.

6. Significance of the Study

This section consists of three paragraphs addressing the following questions: Why is the research significant? In what ways is the research valuable? Who will benefit from its findings?

7. Aim of the Study

- The aim should be explicitly stated and may be complemented by specific objectives.
- Use action-oriented terms like *to determine*, *to find out*, or *to ascertain* when defining specific objectives.
- Objectives should be realistic, measurable, and verifiable.

8. Research questions and or hypotheses

A well-crafted research question outlines the focus of the investigation, establishes its boundaries, and guides its direction. Refining, clarifying, and sometimes redefining research questions are critical steps in the research process (O'Leary, 2004). However, it is important to ensure that the research idea and scope are neither overly broad nor vague. Hypotheses, on the other hand, are assumptions proposing a tentative solution to the problem. They are informed by personal experience and a review of relevant literature.

9. Methodology

In this section, the researcher outlines the methods to be used for data collection and analysis, the target population, the research sample, the procedures to be followed, and the overall research approach. The data analysis process should also be addressed here.

Key questions to consider include:

- What type of research is being conducted?
- Which methods will be used for data collection and analysis (quantitative, qualitative, or a combination)?
- Why are these methods the most suitable for the proposed research?
- What techniques will be employed for data collection (e.g., questionnaires, measurements) and analysis, and why?
- Are these methods practical and capable of addressing the main research problem outlined in the study's objectives?

When defining the research sample, the following questions should be answered:

- Who will participate in the research?
- What characteristics of the broader population do they represent?
- Which sampling method will be applied?

10. Data Analysis

The way the data will be analyzed is advised to be mentioned by the researcher.

11. Preliminary outline/ Layout and overview of chapters

12. Bibliography ; at least 10 resources