

Guide For Authors

Resources and Tips



How to Write Research Statement

This guide provides practical information for writing research proposal for master's degree or PhD degree.

Content Strategy:

- Be clear, objective and realistic in your objectives.
- Why this research is important
- State and justify your objectives clearly
- How will the research benefit the wider society or contribute to the research community?
- What are the innovative points of your research?



1. Research Proposal Structure

- ◆ Title and abstract
- ◆ Research outline
- ◆ Background information / literature review
- ◆ The hypothesis and the objectives
- ◆ Methodology
- ◆ Innovative points
- ◆ Summary and conclusions

2. Writing the Proposal

Your proposal should be well-presented and clearly written, avoid long and convoluted titles.

***Plagiarism**

Make sure that you acknowledge the authors of all publications you use to write your proposal. Failure to do so will be considered as plagiarism. Do not copy word for word what an author has said. Analyze it and re-write it in your own words. If you have to quote an author, then make sure that you use quotation marks and italics to indicate it.

Abstract

An abstract is a brief summary of your research statement. It will provide the reader with the main points and conclusion of proposal.

Introduction

A well-written introduction is the most efficient way to hook the reader and set the context of your proposed research. Avoid general and obvious statements.

The introduction is your opportunity to demonstrate that your research has not been done before and that the proposed project will add something new to the existing literature. The proposal should be based on sound hypotheses and reasoning.

You will have to provide background information in the form of a literature review which helps you set the context for your research to help the reader understanding the research questions and objectives. You will also be expected to present methodologies, theories and conflicting evidence in your chosen field.

Choose key research papers or public documents and explain clearly how your research will either fill a gap, complete or follow on from previous research even if it is a relatively new field or if you are applying a known methodology to a different field. Journal articles, books, PhD theses, public policies, government reports are better than non-peer-reviewed information you may find on the internet.

For more information on how to conduct a literature review check [How to Write a Literature Review](#) file.

***Suggested Format for Introduction**

- Introduce the area of research
- Review key publications
- Identify any gap in the knowledge or questions which have to be answered
- Hypotheses
- Aims and objectives of research
- Methodology
- How your research is beneficial



Methodology

It is important to present the proposed research methodology (e.g. techniques, sample size, target populations, equipment and data analysis) and explain why is the most appropriate to effectively answer the research question.

Summaries and Conclusions

Well-written summaries and conclusions at the end of the proposal and/or at the end of each section can help a reviewer identify the important information. Make concise, clear and informative conclusions.