

The Research Proposal

Students prepare a proposal outlining the research plan. This proposal needs to be approved by the instructor. Usually, the proposal consists of the first three chapters or sections of the report, includes references and appendices, and has the following elements:

1. Chapter/Section I. Introduction

The purpose of the research and statement of the problem are introduced, with background information substantiating the need for the study. It is essential to state why the problem is important. Terms and variables are defined conceptually and operationally.

Background

Problem and significance

Purpose

Research questions or Hypothesis

Definition of variables

2. Chapter/Section II. Review of the Literature

The literature review is related to the problem area. Relevant literature from medical and related fields are reviewed to show awareness of knowledge in the area, and to demonstrate that the researcher has considered a range of possibilities for investigating the problem.

Review literature for the last 5-7 years and provide name of data bases and terms used in the search. At the end of literature review, provide summary of literature and show clearly how your study would extend previous findings.

3. Chapter/Section III. Methods

Sample. Describe the study population, sampling technique selection procedure, sample size, as well as any limitations.

Setting. Describe where the study will be conducted.

Design. Describe the research design and rationale for selection. Identify the variables in your study including steps taken to control for extraneous variables. Present the nature of any intervention/treatment to be administered, if any.

Instruments. Describe the research instruments for collecting data and their appropriateness to the research being conducted. Present information regarding their validity and reliability.

Procedure. Describe in detail how you will conduct the study, protect the rights of participants, and obtain informed consent. Suggest a tentative schedule for the main steps of the investigation.

Plan for Data Analysis. Describe the means by which the data will be analyzed and/or interpreted.

Limitations: At this point, you don't have any results to discuss, so just include a discussion of the study limitations (both methodological and theoretical), the plan for communications of the findings.

4. **References.** List references cited in the text in APA format.

5. **Appendices.** Copies of questionnaires, interview guides, scoring instructions, letters of request to agencies for participation, consent form, instructions to be provided to subjects are included.

Note any restrictions that apply in reproducing established instruments; obtain permission if indicated.

6. FORMAT

Length: 10-12 pages, typewritten on a word processor, double spaced, proofread and corrected. References and appendices are not included in the 10-12 pages.

References: All ideas and conclusions which are not the students' original work or considered general knowledge must be cited and credited to the original source. Citation form must reflect the APA style 6th ed.

Sentence and paragraph structure must be grammatically correct and concise.