

WRITING A RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Explanation:

The goal of a research proposal is to present and justify a research idea you have and to present the practical ways in which you think this research should be conducted. It should provide persuasive evidence that there is a need for the proposed study. In addition to providing a rationale, the proposal should describe the methodology for conducting the research and a statement about the anticipated outcomes and/or benefits of the study. A major component is usually the literature review or annotated bibliography.

A research proposal is generally expected to:

- Show that you are engaging in genuine enquiry, finding out about something worthwhile in a particular context;
- Link your proposed work with the work of others, while proving you are acquainted with major schools of thought relevant to the topic;
- Establish a particular theoretical framework
- Explain your methodology, or how you are going to collect and analyse your research

Normally, research proposals are presented in a report format, with an abstract, table of contents and sections including: introduction, literature review or annotated bibliography, theoretical framework, research methodology, timeline, ethical implications, conclusion, reference list. Check the instructions for this assignment and with your teacher about the most appropriate format and required sections, as there may be some subject-specific variations.

Other resources:

Writing a research proposal
Student Learning Center, Flinders University
http://www.flinders.edu.au/slc_files/Documents/Blue%20Guides/Research%20Proposal.pdf

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