

General Research Proposal Outline

Abstract

Provide a brief overview of your project. Start with a few sentences about the issue or problem your project focuses on. State your goals and objective of the project. End your abstract with a few sentences pertaining to expected results and significance of the project.

Introduction

This is the section in which you give the justification for your project (i.e. why is it important that you do this research?). Connect to previously done research in your field and clearly state the current problem while pointing out any gaps within the currently existing literature. Include objectives and/or hypotheses as appropriate.

Methodology

Describe what exactly you will do over the course of your project so that any reader (especially those outside the field) can understand it. Remember that those reviewing your proposal may not be experts in your field. Use lists, bullet points, etc. as appropriate.

Timeline

Describe how quickly you plan to accomplish all of the previously mentioned steps in your methodology section. A table or timeline graphic would be applicable here.

Budget

If you are applying for grant funding, justify the items and supplies you are asking to be funded. Be as specific as you can in providing estimated item costs and type. Careful explanation or listing of budget items shows preparation to proposal reviewers.

References

Cite the sources mentioned in your introduction at the end of your proposal. Use the citation style most often used within your field of study or whatever is specified by the proposal reviewers.