

Class: MSc Semester 1

Subject: Research Methodology

Chapter: Unit 4

Chapter Name: Research Reporting and Presentation

Today's Agenda

1. Research Proposal
 1. Purpose of a Research Proposal
 2. Structuring of a Research Proposal
2. Research Paper Format
3. Ethical considerations in Research

1 Research Proposal



A research proposal is a formal document expressing the details of a research project, which is usually for science or academic purposes, and it's typically four to seven pages long.



Research proposals often include a title page, an abstract, an introduction, background information, research questions, a literature review and a bibliography.



The purpose includes describing the importance of research in a specific area, addressing any challenges you may encounter, showcasing your knowledge in your field and emphasizing your ability to conduct a meaningful and thorough analysis.



1.1 Purpose of a Research Proposal

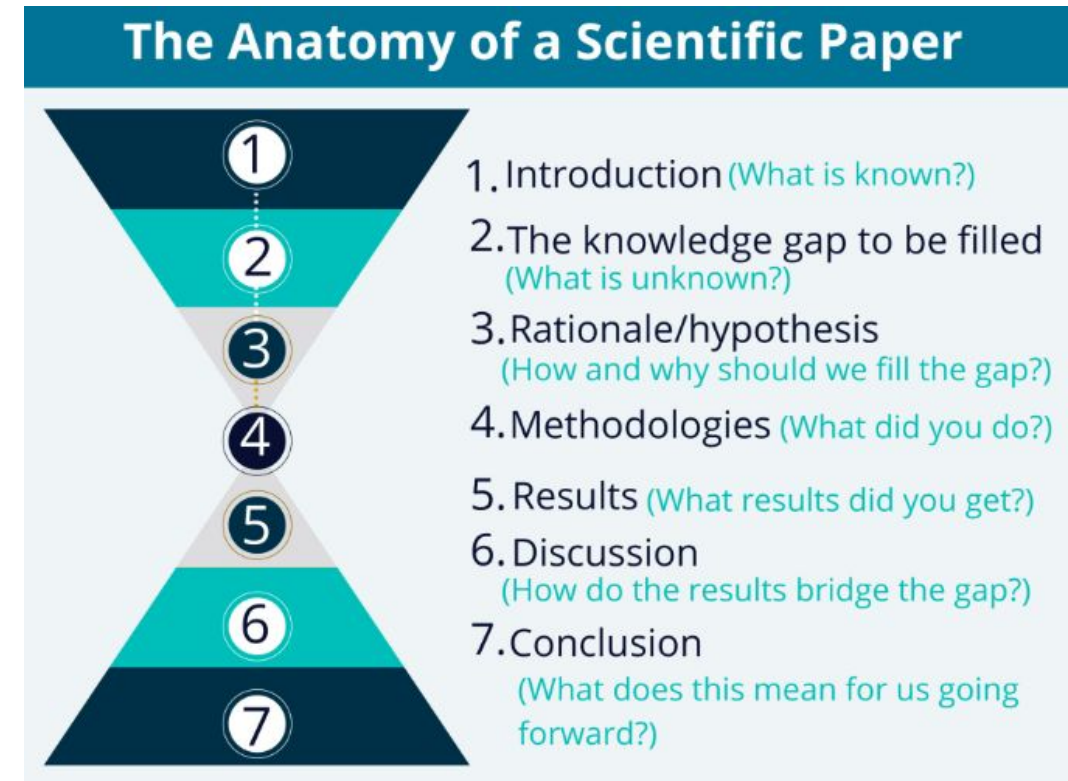
You may write research proposals for several reasons, including:

- Applying for a position at a research institute or company
- Convincing a research supervisor or university that your research can satisfy the requirements of a degree program
- Showing the importance of your research to organizations that may financially sponsor your endeavors
- Demonstrating your knowledge of an academic field and your ability to conduct a study
- Clarifying your research objectives and key concepts
- Asserting that your research topic can benefit a local community or wider society
- Foreseeing any challenges that may arise during your research process
- Refining the focus of your project for readers so they can better understand your theories and methodologies

1.2 Structuring a Research Proposal

The structure of a research paper typically follows a standard format, consisting of several sections that convey specific information about the research study. The following is a detailed explanation of the structure of a research paper:

1. Title Page
2. Abstract
3. Introduction
4. Background Information
5. Methodology
6. Literature Review
7. Results
8. Discussions
9. Conclusions
10. Bibliography



1.2 Structuring a Research Proposal

1. Include a title page

Add a specific page that introduces the document to readers at the beginning of your proposal document. This page typically shows the basic details of your project, such as its proposed title, your name, the current date, your supervisor's name, the institution hosting the project and the name of your department. Be sure to organize these elements logically by using a clear format and certain design attributes, like a bold font. It may be helpful to connect with your department leader to verify any requirements for this page.

1.2 Structuring a Research Proposal

2. Develop an abstract

An abstract is a one-page document that summarizes the key points of your full body of work in 150 to 300 words. After finishing a title page, consider including this page to highlight the objectives and outcomes of your research.

As a result, readers can better understand the purpose of your research inquiry and review how you plan to structure your final dissertation in the future, which may help your team receive critical funding.

To further clarify your materials, be mindful to compose a new text that's independent of any other research documents, including a thesis statement.

Here are brief descriptions of the four key elements in an abstract:

- Aims
- Methods
- Hypotheses
- Projected effects

1.2 Structuring a Research Proposal

3. Introduction

The introduction section of a research paper provides background information about the research problem, the research question, and the research objectives. It also outlines the significance of the research, the research gap that it aims to fill, and the approach taken to address the research question.

Finally, the introduction section ends with a clear statement of the research hypothesis or research question. Developing a well-written introduction in your research proposal can also help a reader increase their enthusiasm about your project, plus the results you may provide.

1.2 Structuring a Research Proposal

4. Background information

Depending on your preferences, it's often helpful to create an additional page to describe key details about the rationale of your research proposal.

Then, you might discuss the focus area of your proposed research and define any key terms.

You can also summarize any previous or recent developments in your overall field or industry. Using this information, you can clarify how your research might alter any previous perceptions, adding important context to existing information.

1.2 Structuring a Research Proposal

5. Methodology

Research methodologies describe the practical steps of your project and how you're approaching them, including the research design, the sample selection, the data collection and analysis procedures, and the statistical methods used to analyze the data.

You can also define the type of research you plan to use. For example, your study might involve releasing a survey to college students at a specific campus, then using their responses as data for analysis. This section should provide sufficient detail for other researchers to replicate the study. This section can help you persuade others that your proposed techniques can address your research problem adequately and prevent unexpected issues during the process.

1.2 Structuring a Research Proposal

6. Literature review

A literature review is a document that describes your project's primary and secondary sources, plus how they relate to your hypothesis. It includes a critical analysis and synthesis of the literature, highlighting the key concepts, themes, and debates.

You can also use a literature review to demonstrate how existing knowledge can serve as a foundation for your research. It can also show how your project fits into these various discussions between scholars and why your study can add an original claim.

To format your literature review effectively, it may be helpful to structure your sources using a specific strategy. For instance, you can list them chronologically by publication date or separate them into different sections based on what theory they present.

1.2 Structuring a Research Proposal

7. Results

The results section presents the findings of the research, using tables, graphs, and figures to illustrate the data. The findings should be presented in a clear and concise manner, with reference to the research question and hypothesis.

Summarize all previous information and highlight the importance of your proposal. You can emphasize the potential implications of your research on future projects, plus how it might alter existing knowledge in your particular subject area.

1.2 Structuring a Research Proposal

8. Discussions

The discussion section of a research paper interprets the findings and discusses their implications for the research question, the literature review, and the field of study. It should also address the limitations of the study and suggest future research directions.

1.2 Structuring a Research Proposal

9. Conclusions

Summarize all previous information and highlight the importance of your proposal. You can emphasize the potential implications of your research on future projects, plus how it might alter existing knowledge in your particular subject area. You might also restate your research problem and clarify the results you hope a project can achieve. Consider reviewing the guidelines of your supervisor, as they may require you to address specific topics in a conclusion or prefer a certain document length.

1.2 Structuring a Research Proposal

10. Bibliography

An institution or company may require you to complete a bibliography, which is a list of articles, video clips and other texts you discussed or referenced in your research proposal. You may also discuss relevant texts you plan to include in a full dissertation or project document.

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Research Paper Format

An outline for a research paper is a visual reminder to include all of the pertinent details of your research in your essay or paper. It is essentially a skeletal version of the true paper and will guide you through the entire research process.

There are several popular formats for research papers:

- MLA (Modern Language Association)
- APA (American Psychological Association)
- CMOS (Chicago Manual of Style)

2

Research Paper Format

1. APA (American Psychological Association)

APA (American Psychological Association) research paper format is often used in papers related to psychology and social sciences. In this citation, there is a general format in referencing through endnotes/footnotes, in-text, and reference pages.

Academic papers in APA citation has general writing guidelines.

- Begin the paper with a title page.
- Use double-line spacing.
- Indent new paragraphs 1/2 inch.
- Use a running head for each page in the upper right-hand corner, which consists of the paper's title in capital letters followed by the page number and cannot exceed 50 characters including spacing and punctuation.
- Use sentence case for titles of sources.
- When citing in-text references, use the author's last name and the first and middle initials.

2

Research Paper Format

APA Format:

Title Page:

- Title of the paper
- Author's name and institutional affiliation
- Running head

Abstract:

- Brief summary of the paper (150-250 words)

Body:

- Double-spaced, 12-point font (usually Times New Roman)
- 1-inch margins on all sides
- Page numbers in the top right corner
- In-text citations (Author, Year)

References:

- Alphabetical order by the author's last name
- Hanging indents for each entry
- Author, A. A. (Year). Title of the work. Publisher.

2

Research Paper Format

2. MLA (Modern Language Association)

MLA format is commonly used in liberal arts and humanities.

Papers in MLA format provides a process of documentation:

- MLA recommends using Times New Roman font in size 12.
- The entire paper should be double spaced with 1-inch margins on all sides.
- Use a running head for each page on the upper right-hand corner, which consists of your last name and the page number.
- List citations in alphabetical order on a separate page at the end of the paper entitled "Works Cited."
- Use title case for source titles, as in "On the Origin of Species."

2

Research Paper Format

MLA Format

Title Page:

- Name, instructor's name, course title, and date (left-aligned)
- Title centered

Header:

- Last name and page number in the top right corner

Body:

- Double-spaced, 12-point font (usually Times New Roman)
- 1-inch margins on all sides
- In-text citations (Author page number)

Works Cited:

- Alphabetical order by the author's last name
- Hanging indents for each entry
- Author, A. Title of Source. Publisher, Year.

2

Research Paper Format

3. CMOS (Chicago Manual of Style)

Book publishers and many academic papers use CMOS formatting based on the Chicago Manual of Style. The Chicago style of citing is commonly used in humanities. It helps an academic writer provide quotations in a research paper, as well as being commonly used for book bibliographies.

- Include an unnumbered title page.
- Use double-line spacing.
- Indent new paragraphs 1/2 inch.
- Place page numbers on the upper right-hand corner of the page. Do not list your name or the paper's title.
- The Chicago style uses footnotes for citations.
- CMOS supports both short notes and full notes.

2

Research Paper Format

CMOS Format

Title Page:

- Title centered at the top
- Author's name, institutional affiliation, and a running head

Body:

- Double-spaced, 12-point font (usually Times New Roman)
- 1.25-inch margins on all sides
- Page numbers in the top right corner
- In-text citations (Author Year:Page)

Bibliography:

- Alphabetical order by the author's last name
- Hanging indents for each entry
- Author. Year. Title of Source. Publisher.

3

Ethical considerations in Research



Ethical considerations in research refer to the principles and guidelines that researchers must follow to ensure that their studies are conducted in an ethical and responsible manner.

Some of the key ethical considerations in research include:

- Informed consent
- Privacy and confidentiality
- Harm reduction
- Fairness and equity
- Use of deception
- Use of vulnerable populations
- Conflict of interest
- Data manipulation
- Intellectual property
- Cultural sensitivity