

1. Your proposed topic should address a significant problem and, therefore, advance the state of knowledge in that field.
2. You have identified an appropriate

Significance and Implications of the Study: relates the intended or expected outcomes of your research to the original aims expressed in the Introduction so that the significance of the study and the contribution to knowledge is apparent.

List of References: lists all the resources cited in your resource proposal using a referencing format appropriate to your faculty or discipline. Do not list resources that are not referred to in your proposal. This is a good time to begin using a bibliographic tool such as EndNote to track all the references for your study.

See <http://www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/endnote/> for further information about EndNote.

Writing the Research Proposal

How to write: Remember that you do not need to write your Research Proposal in the order in which it will be read. In fact, you might begin the writing process with a concept map drawn up on large-size paper in landscape orientation.

Give your concept map a title at the top of the paper and then write appropriate headings for the different sections of the Research Proposal (e.g. Introduction, Methodology, Conclusion) and draw boxes around these headings so they look like pages of a book.

Now, add anything you think you will need in these boxes (e.g. figures, graphs, references, topic sentences) and use colours to highlight different kinds of content. Because this is a creative brainstorming session don't restrict your ideas and don't be concerned with neatness. The idea is to gain an impression of the whole proposal and to draft your chapter outline.

The next step is writing the rough draft. Start with the Methodology section and remember to provide enough information for the experiments and data collection to be replicated by someone else, but nothing more. Then, ask yourself, what is different about your proposed method? What kind of research are you proposing? This will give you your sub-headings.

- Experimental – equipment, materials, method
- Modeling – assumptions, mathematical tools, method
- Computational – inputs, computational tools, method.

Next, write up the implications and significance of your research in bullet-point form. Then, write your Introduction, remembering that the conclusions you draw from your research (i.e. the significance and implications) are related to the aims and objectives of the research which you state in the introduction.

Finally, distil everything you have written down to its essence and write the Abstract for your proposal.

Tips and common problems

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