



Tips for Preparing a *Strong* Research Proposal

CONTENT:

Provide clear and precise research questions and objectives: Tell readers what you plan to achieve through your research and what questions you will be asking to reach those objectives

Demonstrate why it is important for you to answer your research questions: Your questions should address a clear and significant research problem (i.e. a theoretical or practical issue, concern or condition that warrants investigation and/or resolution)

Situate your project within the field: Draw upon relevant literature to tell us what we know, and don't know, about the research problem but avoid a general discussion

Describe your theoretical framework: Tell the reader about the relevant theories, concepts and assumptions that you will be drawing upon to inform your methodology.

Explain and justify your methodology and methods: Tell the reader how you will answer your research questions and be sure to explain your decisions and choices. Be sure that your methodology and theoretical framework are aligned.

Tell reviewers why your project matters: What are the expected outcomes or impacts of your project? Who or what (practice, theory, policy) will your project affect? How will this project advance understanding and knowledge?

STYLE:

Write for a non-specialist audience: avoid disciplinary jargon and technical terms

Be concise: make every word and sentence count

Be consistent: if you need to refer to the same thing (e.g. approach, method, concept, population) more than once throughout your proposal, use the same word or phrase

BUDGET:

Budget items should be explained and well justified in terms of your proposed research project.