

Final Research Proposal

Due:

The details:

- 15-20 pages, not including reference list and appendix
- Double-spaced
- With page numbers
- 12 pt. font
- All references in ASA format (see pgs 33-37 of the ASA Style Guide on WebCT)
- Attach to the end of your paper: graded draft literature review, graded draft methods paper.
- Do not attach the actual data from your pre-test (i.e. filled out survey forms, interview transcripts...)

I suggest using the following sub-headings, in the following order, to guide the reader through your paper:

- Introduction
- Literature Review
- Methods
- Pretest Findings
- Conclusion
- Appendix
- Reference List

Your final research proposal must include the following:

Introduction (1-2 pages)

- Include a clear statement of your research question
- Address why this question is important
- Briefly tell the reader what is coming in the rest of your paper

Literature Review (4-7 pages)

- Situate your question in a field of research. What have other researchers had to say about your question? How will answering your question contribute to scholarly research on your broader topic? Describe how your research plan is different from research that has already been done, or why repeating research on your question is necessary.

Methods (4-7 pages)

- Describe the specific methods of data collection and analysis you would use to answer your research question “if you had a million dollars” (e.g. if time and money were not limitations). Why did you choose these methods?

- Describe how you actually pre-tested your research question, and how well the pre-test fits the ideal target population of your research question. Why did you choose this method?
- Describe the ethical implications of your research. Could conducting your research harm your research subjects in any way? If the ethical implications of the “ideal” project and the pretest are different, describe both.
- Describe the strengths and weaknesses/limitations of your chosen methods, and how you are attempting to limit the weaknesses you have identified.

Pretest Findings (3-5 pages)

- Analyze the results of your pre-test. What do your findings indicate about the possible answer to your research question? Be very careful not to claim you have found a conclusive answer to your research question based on the limited data available from your pre-test.
- Describe any flaws in your pre-test design or research instrument that you discovered during the pre-test. How would you fix these flaws if you used this research tool again?

Conclusion (1-2 pages)

- Summarize the paper
- Describe any recommendations for future research about your topic that you have discovered during the course of writing this paper but did not incorporate into your own research proposal.

Appendix

- A revised version of the data collection instrument you used for your pre-test. Make revisions that address any weaknesses in your instrument that you discovered during your pretest.

Reference List