

# Grading Grid for Research Proposal

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
<b>Research Question</b>	Vague or unclear question. No distinction between predictive/causal or applied/methodological.	Clear research question. Basic distinction between predictive or causal.	Well-defined question with a strong focus and explicit distinction between predictive or causal.
<b>Hypothesis Development</b>	Missing or unsupported hypothesis. No theoretical or literature-based justification.	Hypothesis present and somewhat justified. Some theoretical or literature references.	Well-articulated hypothesis with strong, relevant justification through theory, literature, or economic arguments.
<b>Data Selection and Description</b>	Data sources unclear or irrelevant. No differentiation between ideal and realistic data.	Reasonable discussion of both ideal and realistic data. Steps for acquiring realistic data mentioned.	Detailed and thoughtful description of ideal data and realistic alternatives. Clear acquisition strategy and feasibility considerations.
<b>Machine Learning Methods</b>	No mention of ML methods or irrelevant methods discussed.	Relevant ML methods identified with some consideration of advantages/disadvantages.	Comprehensive discussion of suitable ML methods, with clear articulation of advantages, disadvantages, and applicability.
<b>Discussion of Advantages and Disadvantages</b>	Limited or no discussion of advantages and disadvantages related to methods.	General discussion of key advantages and disadvantages.	Insightful evaluation of advantages and disadvantages, considering factors such as data format, complexity, interpretability, computational challenges, and robustness.

<b>Preliminary Analysis (Optional)</b>	Missing or insufficient discussion of steps for data preparation and analysis.	Preliminary analysis conducted or detailed steps outlined for hypothetical analysis.	Clear, well-structured preliminary analysis or comprehensive plan for handling and analyzing hypothetical data.
<b>Conclusion and Next Steps</b>	Missing or weak conclusion. Next steps vague or not mentioned.	Reasonable summary of key points and next steps.	Strong conclusion with a concise summary and detailed, actionable next steps.
<b>Structure, Clarity, and Formatting</b>	Disorganized or difficult to follow. Formatting inconsistent with guidelines.	Organized structure with minor gaps. Mostly follows formatting guidelines.	Well-structured, logical flow with all required sections clearly presented and connected, fully adhering to formatting rules.