

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Mondays & Wednesdays | 12:30pm-1:45pm EDT | Georgetown University

FAQs

What format should my references be?

Use APA format (6th or 7th) if possible. But for the intent citation you can just use numbers to refer to them.

Can I go over 2 pages?

Only if it is your draft. The draft requires a max of 3 pages but for your final, your proposal needs to have 2 pages max.

Do I have to use all the headers from below?

No. The only required headers are #5 and #6.

Please look at the examples I added on Canvas for different structures and headers people have used for this project.

Proofread, proofread, & proofread

Proofreading your own work is like washing your hands: even if you don't believe in it, it shows you're not a jerk.



Photo by [bongkarn thanyakij](#) from [Pexels](#)

Guidelines

Your research proposal should propose an original experiment that extends or challenges the prior studies. You should write your proposal in the future tense because it is describing an experiment that has yet to be run.

The following may seem formulaic, but empirical writing is often formulaic because most people – even people who are proven skilled writers in other areas – are usually terrible at it without a lot of practice.

Paper Size: 8.5"x11" **DRAFT** = max 3 pages, **FINAL** = max 2 pages

Font: Times New Roman for all text, Cambria Math font for equations, and Symbol font for non-alphabetic characters (it is recommended that equations and symbols be inserted as an image), no smaller than 11-pt, except text that is part of an image

Spacing: No less than single spacing

Margins: 1" margins on all sides, no text inside 1" margins (no header, footer, or page number)

A proposal usually includes the following sections with or without the following labels.

1. Introduction

Write an introduction in which you review the general topic area and summarize relevant literature, culminating in a critical evaluation of one particular issue that could be addressed empirically.

Clarify what gap in the literature your study would fill and why that gap is important to fill. Your literature review should also establish the theoretical context of previous work.

2. Hypothesis (or hypotheses)

State your hypothesis. Your hypothesis should follow logically from a theoretical framework and empirical support provided in your short literature review. It should provide a hypothetical answer to the question you posed at the end of your review (and in your objective) grounded in theory and prior research.

This part is really critical. Of course, it's all important, but this is *really* key. It's also one of those incredibly obvious things that can often prove a tad harder than it seems at first blush.

3. Proposed Method

This method section could include information about participants, apparatus, design, and procedure. The Participants section should include proposed subject recruitment, and the Apparatus section should include description of materials your experiment will use, including any questionnaires or surveys. The Procedure section should give enough details of your proposed experiment that would allow for me to follow what you would like to do if you get the funding.

4. Proposed data analysis/ expected findings

This section states what aspects of your data you think will be important, and what you expect to find (i.e. what you predict). For example, you might state how you will condense your data, and what cells will be compared to each other.

You could also outline the statistical analyses you plan to use (e.g., ANOVA, Chi-square, t-test) given the measurement of your dependent and independent variables and the hypotheses you aim to test.

NOTE: I will not require you to indicate the type of test since some of you may not have had Research Methods yet, but I do expect you all to state very clearly the type of results you would expect.

5. Intellectual Merit

This **MUST** be in your proposal (see template).

- What is the creative part of YOUR approach?
- Have YOU thought of alternatives for hard or crucial steps?
- What skills do YOU have to make this plan successful? Or Plan to acquire to make this plan successful

6. Broader Impacts

This **MUST** be in your proposal (see template).

This section answers the main question of “why should someone care?”. Here you will explain the general implications of answering the questions you want to answer and how the findings may be important for policy, practice, or theory. What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society?

- How will your work inform the field?
- Don’t make vague or overreaching statements or use platitudes like “results from this study will open doors for future research”

7. References

You should cite a minimum of **6** articles in your proposal.