



RESEARCH PROPOSAL VS RESEARCH ARTICLE

While one of the goals and end products of this class is a research proposal, it is the beginning of the research process. A research proposal is written for dissertations, most funded research and mini versions may be required by IRB's. Thus the research proposal occurs at the front end of the research process. Conversely, a research article is the end product of completed research.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Title

Concise specific description of what the research is about.

Abstract

Brief general description of the topic, and proposed methods.

Introduction

A paragraph or two that should capture the reader's attention and make them interested in the topic.

Literature Review

A synthesis of all the information pertaining to what is being proposed that was learned from reading the existing literature related to the topic; focus in more depth on existing literature that illustrates where there is a hole in the literature and thus where the proposed research will fit.

Importance

Discuss why the research topic is important – what will it address and how will it add to existing knowledge.

Theoretical Perspective

Discuss the most appropriate theory for the research; explain the theory and how it is applied to the research.

Research Questions

A brief introduction/explanation to the research questions; statement of research questions in question format.

Methodology

Discuss exactly how the research will be conducted – discuss all necessary aspects from research strategies, populations, sampling, data collection, data organization and storage, analysis (i.e. coding methods), etc. ; justify all methodological decisions.

Possible limitations

Discuss the limitations (and/or weaknesses) of the research proposed.

Conclusion

Summarize the proposed research.

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Title

Concise specific description of what the research is about.

Abstract

Brief general description of the topic, methods utilized and main findings.

Introduction

Discusses the purpose of the research and may identify and discuss the research questions.

*** Introduction and literature review are sometimes combined.*

Review of the literature

Review of the literature related to the research topic; focuses in more depth on existing literature that illustrates where current research will fit and add existing knowledge; discusses the theoretical framework/orientation.

Methodology

Description of research procedures and strategies, population, sample and sampling method; discussion of research setting; discussion of data collection techniques, data organization, and analysis process such as coding methods.

Findings / Results

Discussion of research findings – discussion of themes and provides support for themes (excerpts from field notes, interviews, etc.), connects the research questions to the results.

Discussion / Conclusion

Author's interpretation of the findings – where his/her findings fit with previous research, what the data/findings mean within the context of the study, what the data/findings mean outside the context of the study in terms of generalizability and/or policy implications; discussion of the limitations of the study and future studies.

Use the research proposal content from the infographic as an added guide for what to address/include in your qualitative research proposal.