GD3S01
Software Engineering Capstone Project

Lecture 2 – Research Proposal: How to write?

Game Development

Media Design School, Auckland

New Zealand

Learning Outcomes

- At the end of the lecture, students should be able to:
  - know the purpose of a research proposal
  - know the structure of a research proposal
  - Know how to write a research proposal

Guidelines for Research Proposal

- You research proposal should communicate these three questions:
  1. What you want to do?
  2. Why it is important?
  3. How will you do it?

- You research proposal is more than the three questions above.

> *"Bear in mind that the processes of writing the proposal and the finished product have several complementary purposes. The proposal is a research plan, an evaluation, a trial run at writing your thesis; a contract with your department, and a sales pitch."*
>
> **(Peters, 1997 as cited in Cooksey & McDonald, 2011, p.382)**

Research Proposal Structure

Research Proposal Structure…

1. Title

- The title should answer the question:

  What is this research about?

- The title should not more than 2 lines.

Research Proposal Structure...

2. Abstract

- Abstract should answer the questions of

  What, Why, and How.

- According to APA, the abstract should be between 150 to 250 words.
- Write the abstract in non-technical language to appeal to a wider community.

Research Proposal Structure…

3. What is your research problem?

- Here you have to clearly mention the research problem you are trying to find an answer to? You can also consider this section as the purpose of the research. You can begin as follows: "The purpose of this research is …"
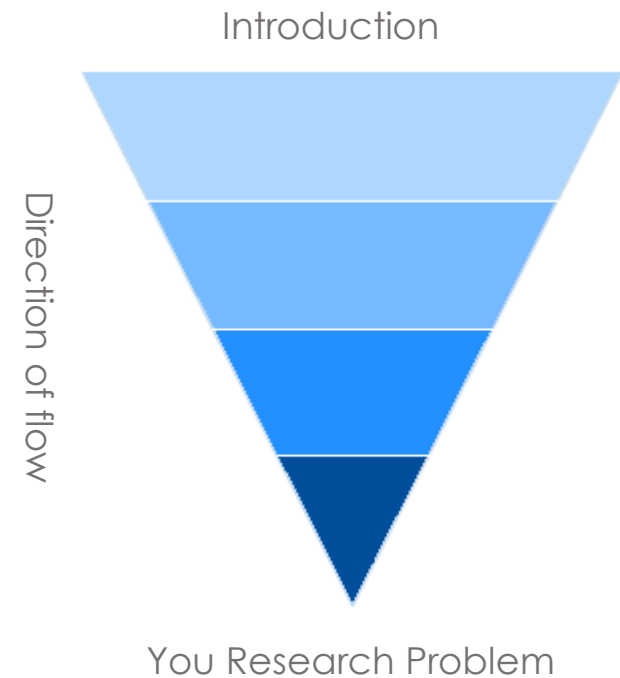
Research Proposal Structure...

4. Why your research is important?

- Here goes all the reasons and motivations of your research. Also, how your solution to the proposed problem will influence theory or practice.

Research Proposal Structure…

- A summary of the literature you have reviewed which will provide the context in which the research is to be undertaken. This should include a brief account of how the proposed project relates to existing knowledge and literature within the appropriate field.

- For writing literature review, follow the **cone** method.

Introduction

Direction of flow

You Research Problem

Research Proposal Structure…

6. What is your proposed research methodology?

- Provide a research question and brief outline of the potential methodology and methods/research technique(s) to be employed in the study.

Research Proposal Structure…

- Here you have to mention your awareness and understanding of ethical issues associated with your research proposal.

- If you will collect data for your research then you have to make sure that you are aware of your responsibilities regarding the data, how the data will be collected, how the data will be stored, how the data will be disposed of, and the rights of those being researched.

- Clearly mention, in either case, that your proposal needs permission form ethics committee or not.

- Talk to me if you need ethics approval.

Research Proposal Structure…

8. What resources will you need to carry out the research?

- Resources may include, research articles, books, funding, equipment, software etc.

Research Proposal Structure…

9. References

- List out **only** cited references

- Use APA or IEEE styles. For details about the two referencing styles please see the two guides in the ClassFolder.

- For order in References section, follow the order of occurrence of your citation in the text. For example, your first cited source should be your first reference in the references section, your second cited source should be your second reference in the references section, and so on…

Exercise

- Finalize your topic and start writing your proposal using the given template.

The End