

English Academic Writing: Unit 2 Research Proposal

李黎 语通未来 1周前

Unit 2 Research Proposal

Unit Two

Learning Objectives

- To understand the importance and major components of a research proposal;
- To become aware of the use of personal pronouns and nominalization in academic writing;
- To initiate your own research;
- To learn to write a research proposal.

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II. Sample Reading

1. Summarize the components of a research proposal based on the text in a few keywords and fill in the following table.

Components	Key words
Part 1	A working title
Part 2	Overview of the research
Part 3	Review of literature
Part 4	Research methodology
Part 5	Facilities required
Part 6	Conclusion
Part 7	List of key references

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The following key to the question is for reference.

- 2) How do we improve reading in elementary schools?

It's too large and not doable. This question ties clearly into the research area of elementary school success by researching reading in general, but it lacks any link to the research methods. The question could be improved by asking how different intervention programs help struggling students or how curricula at charter schools differ from public schools.



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III. Language Focus

A. Personal pronouns

- First person pronouns
 - Establishing author identify by using it and strengthening impersonal tone by removing it.
- Second person pronouns
 - Seldom used unless you give instructions.
- Third person pronouns
 - Sounds more objective and convincing.

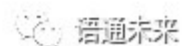


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III. Language Focus

B. Nominalization

When you turn a verb or an adjective into a noun, you nominalize it, creating a nominalization.



Unit Two

IV. Academic Writing Skills

- A. Selecting a topic
- B. Formulating the focus
- C. Establishing a working title

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IV. Academic Writing Skills

C. Establishing a working title

The following is Eric's research topic. Fill in the blanks to show a possible process of refinement of his working title.

- Explaining vulnerability
- Explaining vulnerability of adolescent girls
- Explaining vulnerability of adolescent girls in North America
- Explaining vulnerability of adolescent girls in North America to violence
- Explaining vulnerability of adolescent girls in North America to violence though empirical field work

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