

Developing a research idea

Assignment: Upload a 1-2 paragraph “hook” to bCourses by Thu 8/30/18

Some questions you may want to answer in your “hook”

What are you passionate about, in terms of research?

What is the problem or need, and why is it important?

What sources of kinds of data can you use to validate the importance of your proposed project?

How is existing knowledge or practice inadequate?

Why is your idea better?

How is it new, unique, different?

What will it contribute, and who will benefit from it (intellectual merit and broader impacts)?

What is the goal of your proposal (make sure you have a clear goal statement)?

What is a specific, measureable objective for your proposal?

Keep it Simple: Jargon, Passive vs. Active voice

Reduce to a simpler form with fewer words that keeps the same meaning:

It is the objective of the research team to obtain data that can be used in conjunction with a comprehensive chemical modeling study to generate a detailed understanding of the fundamental chemical processes that lead to engine knock. (38 words)

Rewrite as a single sentence using active voice:

Today it was determined that a recent ruling by the Illinois Supreme Court would be allowed to stand. The case involved whether the court should or should not grant custody of a baby boy to his biological father, even though that father has never seen his son. The original Illinois ruling which granted custody to the father was appealed in the Supreme Court, and today, in an order written by Justice John Paul Stevens, the Supreme Court refused to delay the Illinois ruling. (3 sentences, 83 words)
