



Developing a Research Plan

Introduction lays out **why**; the research plan is all about **how**

December 28, 2020

Developing a research plan

Goals:

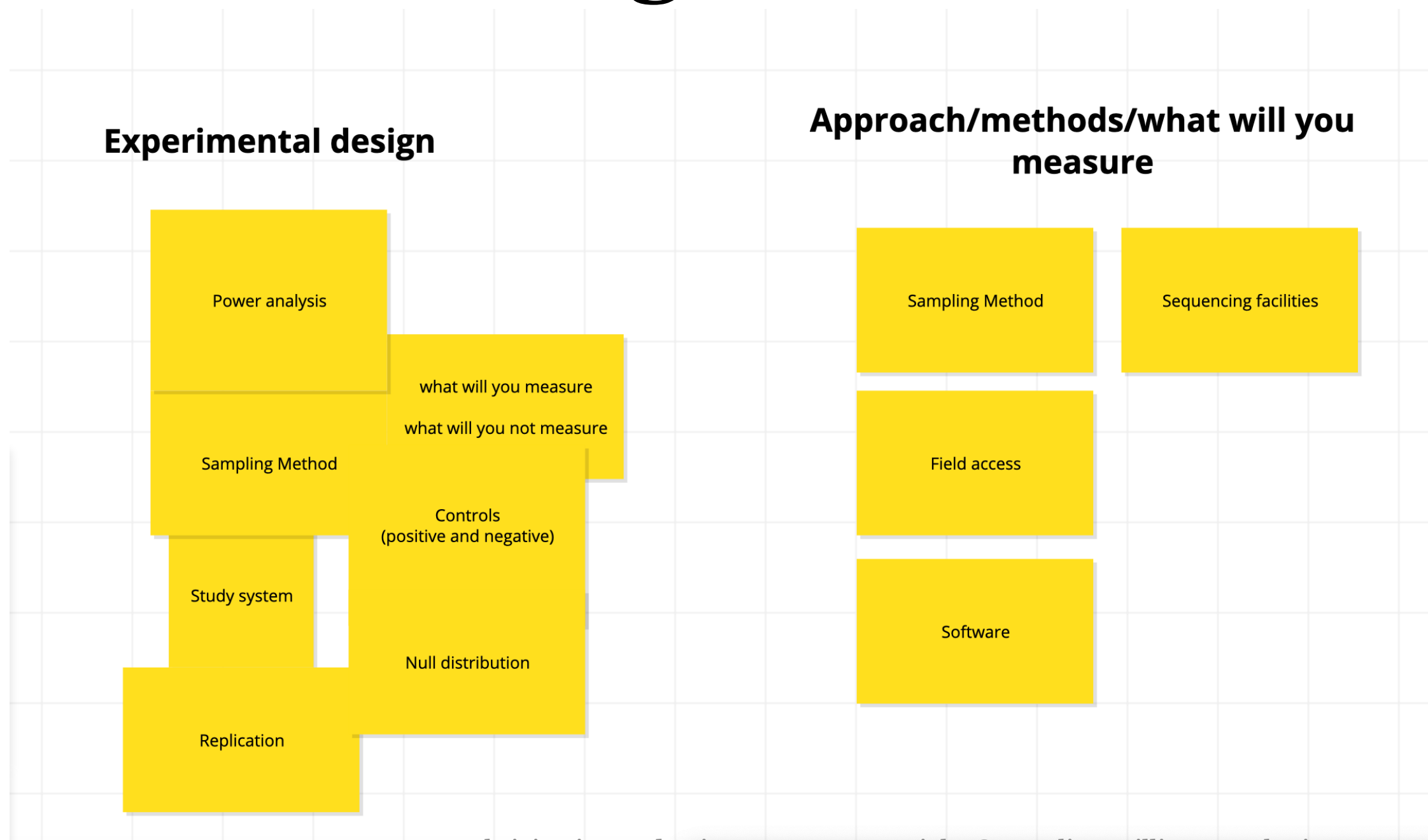
- Discuss how to outline the components of the “Aims” section in a research proposal
- Discuss the characteristics of a strong hypothesis

Outlining an Aims section

- Important that each of your specific aims be discrete, and that aims are not inter-dependent
- For each specific aim, provide a brief introductory paragraph that summarizes problem the aim will address and the working hypothesis. Then clearly articulate:
 - The research design: your experimental design and the approaches/methods you will use
 - Your predicted outcome (that is, your “best guess” based on existing literature and/or pilot data), and how the outcome will address your hypothesis
 - Plans for addressing any anticipated problems/complications
 - What the aim will accomplish in broader context of proposal

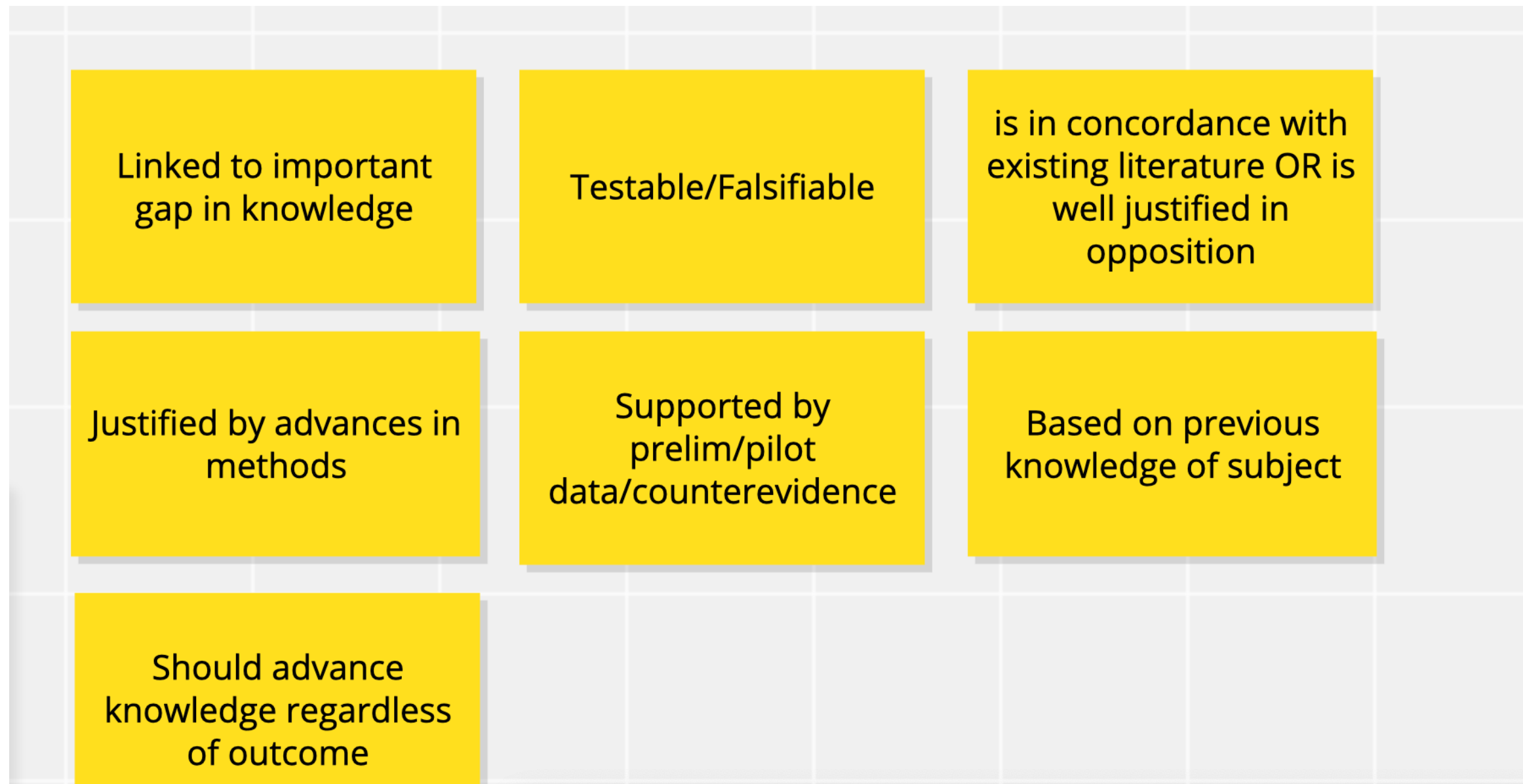
Brainstorming session: Compare and contrast “Experimental Design” and “Methods”

Experimental design vs. methods



Brainstorming session: What are some characteristics of a “good” hypothesis?

Characteristics of a “good” hypothesis?



Assignment

- Read the guide to outlining an Aims section (bcourses site, Week 4 folder) and use this as the basis for writing an Aims section. If you are working on a GRFP, write an Aims section for that. If not, write an Aims section for another proposal or try to “reverse engineer” an Aims section for the proposal that led to a specific piece of published research.