

# Final Research Proposal Guideline

PA 604: Methods of Analysis in Public and Urban Affairs (Fall 2022)

20 points

Due: December 19, 2022

The final research proposal (as well as the draft sections) must be in either [ASA](#) or [APA](#) format. This means that you are using 12-point font, and using 1-inch margins (on all sides). Your final proposal should have four required sections, in the following order: Introduction, Literature Review, Data & Methods, Timeline, and References.

Your reference section must be the final section (beginning on a new page after the Timeline) and must also be in ASA or APA format.

The sections are outlined below:

## Introduction:

This is where you're introducing the reader to your research question (the relationship between your variables), identifying how you think that relationship works, and providing a brief background on that relationship.

- General background statement about the relationship between the variables  
*"Social movements engage in various sorts of action to achieve their goals."*
- An example (or two) about how that relationship works  
*"For example, research shows that social movements can lobby politicians or engage in petition drives to impact policy change (Amenta 2006)."*
- A coherent research question, which can be rephrased, and an reason why that relationship works  
*"Protest may influence the likelihood of changing educational policy because it raises politicians' awareness of the issue and pressures them to respond with concessions."*

## Literature Review:

This is where you're introducing the reader to how the relationship between your variables operates (e.g. how does it work in real life, why is there a relationship between the two variables, why it makes sense that these variables are related). To do this, you need to find academic literature (research articles) that discuss your two variables/concepts, and discuss their findings.

- General statement about how academic literature demonstrates the relationship between the variables  
*"Scholars have demonstrated the relationship between social movement activity and policy change."*

- Discussion of one or more academic article’s findings, as it relates to your variables  
*“For example, Amenta (1989) shows that things like lobbying or maintaining connections to politicians had a positive effect on the passage of Old-Age policy in the United States. In addition, other work points to protest as being a more effective mobilizer of policy change (Piven and Cloward 1977; McAdam and Su 2002). McAdam and Su (2002) show that disruptive protest increased politicians attention to anti-war issues, which led to more Congressional anti-war legislation.”*
- Summary statement that synthesizes the literature and relates to your research question  
*“This work demonstrates that not only do movement tactics influence policy change, but when those tactics are disruptive, they are more likely to lead policy changes that are beneficial to the movement and its constituents. For these reasons, I believe that college student protest operates in a similar way for educational policy.”*

## Data & Methods:

This is where you’re introducing the reader to how you plan to answer your research question. You will discuss the data you propose to use: either interviews, ethnography, participant observation, or using one or more quantitative data sets. Next, you must discuss your method or analytic strategy – the way you will analyze the data. If you’re using qualitative data (e.g. interviews, ethnographic field notes, participant observation), analysis usually entails “grounded theory,” where code/categorizing each interview, note, or observation into themes (themes that emerge as you’re coding/categorizing, not that you’ve predetermined prior to data collection). If you’re using a quantitative data set, analysis usually entails conducting bivariate (e.g. correlation, chi-square, t-test, ANOVA) or multivariate (e.g. linear/multiple/OLS regression, negative binomial/Poisson regression) tests.

- Characteristics of the data
  - Quantitative Data:
    - \* Secondary Data  
*“Given my interest in how tactics influence policy change, I use data from the General Social Survey administered in 2014. The data set has 2,538 observations, with individuals as the unit of analysis. The data set includes an array of information, including demographics, behavioral, and attitudinal measures.”*
    - \* Primary Data (e.g. your own survey)  
*“Given my interest in how tactics influence policy change, I developed a survey, administered in 2021, to individuals in advocacy organizations. The survey asked questions about their organization’s use of protests, lobbying, and advocacy tactics as well as their involvement in the policy process. The data set has 184 observations, with individuals as the unit of analysis. The data set includes an array of information, including demographics, socioeconomic, behavioral, and attitudinal measures.”*
  - Qualitative Data:  
*“Given my interest in how tactics influence policy change, I propose to conduct ninety interviews with activists from thirty on-campus, education-based organizations. This will entail interviewing 3 activists from each organization (the organization’s leader/president, a member of their executive committee, and a rank-and-file member). ”*
- Sampling strategy
  - Quantitative Data:
    - \* Secondary Data  
*“The data were collected by NORC at the University of Chicago. Individuals were recruited for the study using a modified probability sampling technique. Specifically, NORC conducted*

*probability sampling at the block level for all blocks in the United States. Next, individuals within each sampled block were selected using quota sampling – percentages to match the U.S. population – based on sex, age, and employment status.”*

- \* Primary Data (e.g. your own survey)

*“For my survey, individuals were selected from the population of all advocacy organizations in the United States. I obtained the sampling frame from Cengage’s Encyclopedia of Associations: National Organizations of the U.S. Database. Next, I took a random sample of 200 organizations. From there, I visited the websites for all sampled organizations and retrieved the email addresses for all high-ranking members (e.g. Director, Executive Committee, etc.) in each organization, and emailed a link to the survey to all available emails. Because some organizations received more emails than others (given the number of available email addresses on an organization’s website), I use the first completed survey from each organization, regardless of status.”*

- Qualitative Data:

*“Given my interest in how tactics influence policy change, I propose to conduct ninety interviews with activists from thirty on-campus, education-based organizations. This will entail interviewing 3 activists from each organization (the organization’s leader/president, a member of their executive committee, and a rank-and-file member). ”*

- Variables of Interest

- Quantitative Data:

*“The data set includes numerous variables to examine the relationship between tactics and policy change. I will use measures related to participation in social movement action (e.g. CIVDIS, OPPSEGOV, etc.) and those related to an individuals beliefs that they can have an impact on government (e.g. EFFGOV, GOVLIST, etc.). In order to get a broad picture of the effect of social movement participation and policy change, I will include demographic information about the participant (e.g. age, sex, race/ethnicity), and I will account for their political orientation and organizational involvement.”*

- Qualitative Data:

*“The interviews will cover several topics to address why the organizations did or did not get involved campaigns to change educational policy. For those organizations that did get involved, I will ask participants about the types of action they engaged in (protest, lobbying, sit-ins, etc.), how they participated (alone or in a coalition), how the tactic changed over time, the immediate impact of their action, whether or not they plan to continue action, and what types of outcomes they wish to initiate.”*

- Method of Analysis/Analytic Strategy

- Quantitative Data:

*“I will use regression analysis to understand the effect of protest participation on the belief in policy change. Preliminary bivariate analysis, using correlation, shows a strong positive and significant correlation between measures of movement action/participation (e.g. OPPSEGOV) and the belief that one can impact government policy (e.g. EFFGOV),  $r = .68, p < .001$  [or for ANOVA, an example would be:  $F = 10.92, p < .001$ . Or for Chi Square, an example would be:  $X^2 = 9.84, p < .001$ ]. This demonstrates that as participation increases, so too does belief that you can impact policy change. The regression analysis will build off this relationship by incorporating control variables (e.g. demographics) to account for spuriousness and build a causal model.”*

- Qualitative Data:

*“I will use a grounded theory approach to the study of social movement action and its effect on policy change. I take a grounded approach because it is data-centric and allows me to pull out themes in the data (interviews) as they are collected and analyzed. Not having a predetermined set of themes or categories is beneficial because I will not be wed to categories or codes that don’t*

*necessarily appear in the responses of individuals. Moreover, the grounded theory approach allows for the expansion or contraction of categories, based on the themes generated in the interviews. I will compare these themes across interviews, and aim to create theory from themes that cut across responses of activist. Doing so will help paint a broad picture of how activists engage in action to impact policy change.”*

## Timeline:

You need to present a timeline to show the audience that you have a plan to get all of this research done.

- For Quantitative Data:

- Secondary Data

2023 Timeline												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Identify Data												
Download Data												
Clean Data												
Run Analyses												
Write Results												
Revise Results												
Submit to PSA Conference												
Submit to WSC Conference												

  

2024 Timeline												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Present at WSC												
Present at PSA												
Revise Manuscript to Incorporate Feedback												
Prepare Manuscript for Publication												
Submit Manuscript to <i>Mobilization</i> Journal												

- Primary Data (e.g. your own survey)

2023 Timeline												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Develop Survey												
Pilot Test Survey												
Revise Survey												
Identify Participants (Sampling Frame)												
Select Sample												
Recruit Participants / Send Survey												
Collect Responses												
Wrap Data Collection												
Download, Clean, & Recode Data												
Run Analyses												
Write Results												
Submit to NPC Conference												

  

2024 Timeline												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Present at NPC												
Revise Manuscript to Incorporate Feedback												
Prepare Manuscript for Publication												
Submit Manuscript to <i>Journal of Planning Practice and Research</i> Journal												

- For Qualitative Data:

2023 Timeline												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Develop Survey												
Pilot Test Survey												
Revise Survey												
Identify Participants (Sampling Frame)												
Select Sample												
Recruit Participants / Send Survey												
Collect Responses												
Wrap Data Collection												
Download, Clean, & Recode Data												
Run Analyses												
Write Results												
Submit to NPC Conference												

  

2024 Timeline												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Present at NPC												
Revise Manuscript to Incorporate Feedback												
Prepare Manuscript for Publication												
Submit Manuscript to <i>Journal of Planning Practice and Research</i> Journal												

## References:

Your reference section should list all the articles/books/academic literature you used in the proposal. Make sure that you follow either ASA or APA format for your reference section.