

THE RESEARCH PROPOSAL

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The Purpose of the Research Proposal

- Typically, the amount of money and resources available to an institution or company limits the amount of research projects that can be carried out.
- The purpose of a **research proposal** is to convince a funding agency to support your proposed research, rather than other possible research projects.
- A research proposal should convince others that the research
 - addresses an important question/issue and is therefore *significant* and *necessary*
 - can successfully be carried out by the individuals proposing it

Research Proposal Outline

- Abstract
 - A concise summary of the research, in no more than 150 words
- Background and Significance
 - Significance: Why is the proposed work important and needed? Clearly state the objective of the proposal. What, specifically, will be accomplished? List any hypotheses, if applicable.
 - Background: What does the reader need to know to understand the proposed research? Even if the proposal is read by a computer scientist, not all computer scientists have the same background

Research Proposal Outline (continued)

- Methodology
 - How will the research be carried out? What equipment/tools are necessary?
 - What is the timeline for the proposed work?
- Statement of Qualification
 - Why are you qualified to carry out the proposed research?
 - For this proposal, you may also indicate your personal interest in the research and why it will advance your academic / career goals

Research Proposal Outline (continued)

- Expected Outcomes
 - What are the expected outcomes of the proposed work?
 - What tangible objects will be produced? Software? Research Paper? Poster?
- Bibliography
 - List of references cited in your proposal
 - Your proposal should contain at least 6 references of **research** articles, and may contain more.

ACM Citation styles

- Enclose the last name of the first author and year of publication, thus: [Burando 2007];
- when there are two authors, both last names and the year of publication are included [Burando and Lee 2007];
- when there are more than two authors, we cite the last name of the first author followed by an "et al." [Burando et al. 2007]. Sequential parenthetical citations are enclosed in square brackets and separated by semi-colons, thus [Burando 2007; Burando and Lee 2007].
- When a citation is part of a sentence, the name of the author is NOT enclosed in brackets, but the year is: "So we see that Burando et al. [2007]..."
- When an author has more than one article published in the same year, the citation becomes [Burando 2007a] and [Burando 2007b].

Managing Citations

- Microsoft Word:
 - View→Citations
- Zotero:
 - <https://www.zotero.org>
- Reference Generator
 - <http://www.qub.ac.uk/cite2write/harvard3l.html>