

Research Title and The Problem and Its Background, Scope & Limitations, Significance of the Study

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Title

The **title**, with a maximum of **8-15 words**, is the first piece of bait that could lure a potential reader to notice and explore your research.

Perry (2002) offer the following general recommendations regarding the title:

- A title should attract the reader's attention.
- Critics prefer titles that are not too "clever" or "cute". Although it grabs the attention, the title "**More Than a One Night Stand**" would, for example, not be appropriate for a journal article.
- The title should clearly reflect the main theme, issue and reflect the nature and focus of the study and not create false expectations (Feldman, 2004)

Title

- The title should be as specific as possible given the restrictions on length.
- A title should preferably answer the following questions
 - **What** will be researched?
 - **How** will the topic be researched?
 - **With Whom?** - Describes the research population and measurement (optional)
 - **Where/ in what** context will the study be conducted (optional)

Selected Guidelines in the Formulation

- The title must contain the following elements:
 - a. The subject matter or research problem
 - b. The setting or locate of the study
 - c. The respondents or participants involved in the study; and
 - d. The time or period when the study was conducted (can be omitted if two long)
- The title must be broad enough to include all aspects of the study but should be brief and concise as possible
- The use of the terms as “*A Study of*,” “*An Investigation of*” and the like should be avoided.

Selected Guidelines in the Formulation

- If the title contains more than one line, it should be written in inverted pyramid.
- When typed or encoded in the title page, all words in the title should be in capital letters.
- Avoid a long, detailed title that gives too much information.
- To shorten the title, delete terms “assessment” or “evaluation” if these are already emphasized in the text.

Characteristics of a Good Title

1. A title should give readers information about the contents of the research and is preferable to one that is vague or general.
2. Titles do not need to be stuffy or dull but they should generally give readers some idea at the outset of what the research paper will contain.
3. Choose a title that is a phrase rather than a complete sentence
4. Select a straightforward title over other kinds.
5. Use no punctuation at the end of the title
6. Do not underline the title of research or enclose it in quotation marks, instead, use a word processing program or printer that permits italics. Use them in place of underlining.

Sample Title

In order to answer these questions, Grobler (2003) suggest the following basic structure for a title:

Main theme or research topic: Research Design + population + geographical area

Example:

**Consumer trade-off in jewelry purchases: A conjoint analysis
among female pearl buyers in Dubai**

Other Samples

- Higher Order Thinking Skills in Reading of Freshmen in University of the Philippines, Academic Year 2020-2021 using Web Application.
- Pinay Single Mom: *Paghanga O Pagkutya?* A Multi-Case Study on the Lives and Experiences of the Solo Parents in Navotas City.
- Establishment of Jackfruit Tea Processing Plant in Barangay Bantayan, Tabaco, Albay
- Life's Adjustment of Yolanda Victims in Tacloban City.
- Level of Acceptability of the Electronic Boat for Fishermen in Navotas City.

Background of the Study

- This part of research includes information which would focus attention on the importance and validity of the problem.
- It is the general orientation to the problem area.
- A brief rationale to justify the problem must be provided.
- This is the present state of the knowledge regarding the problem.
- Answer these questions to have a very good background:
 1. What facets of the problem (phenomenon) are known and what need further investigation?
 2. What approaches have been used previously in research of the problem?
- The researcher can state the antecedents of the study, the reasons why this topic is proposed relative to the previous studies.

Background of the Study

The Background includes:

1. Discussion of the problem in general and specific situations as observed and experienced by the researcher (macro to micro approach);
2. Concepts and ideas related to the problem including clarification of important terminologies; and
3. Discussion of the existing or present conditions and what is aimed to be in the future or the gap to be filled-in by the research.

Statement of the Problem

- This is the basic difficulty, the issue, the area of concern, the circumstances which exist, how they ought to be.
- The researcher should give the background which led to this circumstances that exist.
- Briefly describe the condition or a situation that exists which is perceived as something less than the idea or what is should be and how you see it to be.

Statement of the Problem

Answer the following questions:

1. What are the reasons of these circumstance?
2. Is it answerable or possible to be solved or changed?
3. What are the specific problems that the study aims to answer?

The statement of the problem tells what is done to make the situation that exists more like what it should be. It exposes anything that is wrong with the situation or condition or circumstance which is being described.

Main Elements of SOP

- **Objective or Purpose of the Study**

It is the first part of the problem where researcher states the objective. This is the statement of a long-term objective expected to be achieved by the study. This is derived by the identification and crystallization of the research problem and as reflected in the title.

It is prefixed by these introductory phrases:

"The main objective of this study is to..."

Main Elements of SOP

- **Research Questions or Investigative Problems**

The specific questions which are to be answered in the study. These are all in question form. The answer to the research questions should lead to the solution of the research problem.

- Is the objective observable, measurable or verifiable?
- Focus on a clear goal or objective
- State the precise goal.
- The problem should be limited enough in making a definite conclusion possible.

Example (Objective)

The primary objective of this research is to test the hypothesis that there is a relationship between workplace condition and teaching performance of faculty members in the Covid-19 pandemic situation.

Example (Objective and Specific Problems)

The study attempted to evaluate the status and extent of implementation of the Learning Management System in Colegio De San Lorenzo SY 2020-2021 as perceived by professor and student respondents.

Specifically this sought answers to the following questions:

1. What is the profile of the respondents in terms of:

 1.1 Teacher Respondents

- 1.1.1 gender;
- 1.1.2 field of specialization;
- 1.1.3 educational attainment;
- 1.1.4 length of service; and
- 1.1.5 learning management seminar/training attended?

Example (Objective and Specific Problems)

1.2 Student Respondents

- 1.1.1 gender;**
- 1.1.2 monthly family income;**
- 1.1.3 parents' educational background;**
- 1.1.4 accessibility to computer; and**
- 1.1.5 performance in major courses?**

2. What is the extent of the Learning Management System implementation as perceived by the teacher-respondents with respect to:

- 2.1 objectives and content of instruction;**
- 2.2 teaching competencies;**
- 2.3 learning competencies;**
- 2.4 methods of teaching employed; and**
- 2.5 computer facilities?**

Example (Objective and Specific Problems)

3. What is the extent of the Learning Management System implementation as perceived by the student-respondents with respect to:

- 2.1 objectives and content of instruction;**
- 2.2 teaching competencies;**
- 2.3 learning competencies;**
- 2.4 methods of teaching employed; and**
- 2.5 computer facilities?**

Scope and Delimitation of the Study

The **scope** describes the coverage of the study. It specifies what is covered in terms of concept, number of subjects or the population included in the study, as well as the timeline when the study was conducted.

Delimit by citing factors or variables that are not to be included and the boundary in terms of time frame, number of subjects, participants or respondents who are excluded. Specify that you will not deal within the study.

Scope and Delimitation of the Study

This section discusses the parameters of the research in paragraph. It answers the basic questions:

1. **What** – the topic of investigation and the variables included
2. **Where** – The venue or the setting of the research
3. **When** – the time frame by which the study was conducted
4. **Why** – the general objectives of the research
5. **Who** – the subject of the study, the population and sampling
6. **How** – the methodology of the research which may include the research design, methodology and the research instrument.

Example

The main purpose of the study is to provide information regarding metro-sexual and how being a metrosexual affects the lifestyle of the student. The study considers the student's personal information such as their name (optional) gender, age, and section.

The researchers limited the study to 80 male and female computer science and computer engineering students enrolled in the second semester of school year 2020-2021 of Colegio De San Lorenzo. Each of the respondents was given a questionnaire to answer. The students selected came from different sections to prevent bias and get objective perceptions.

Significance of the Study

- In this part of research, the researcher defines who will benefit out of the findings of the study.
- He/She describes how the problem will be solved and specifically pinpoints who will benefit from such findings or results.
- Usually the beneficiaries of the study are those experts concerned about the problem, the administrators or policy makers who make the decisions or implement the programs, the subjects themselves, future researchers and those who are directly and indirectly affected by the problem
- Specific sectors who will benefit from the study.

Tips in Writing the Significance of the Study

1. Refer to the Statement of the Problem

Your problem statement can guide you in identifying the specific contribution of your study. You can do this by observing a one-to-one correspondence between the statement of the problem and the significance of the study

2. Write from General to Specific

Write the significance of the study by looking into the general contribution of your study, such as its importance to society as a whole, then to individuals which may include yourself as a researcher.