

**Basic Concepts of
Research Proposal and
Steps of
Research Proposal
Development**

Translate your written notes into
a written paper.

It is easier than you think

How to translate your written notes into a paper.

- Write an introduction
 - This section is like a mini literature review.
 - Written in present tense
- Write a method section
 - This section deals with how you will collect data or information.
 - Written in future tense

How to translate your written notes into a paper.

- Write a results section.
 - This section deals with how you will analyze your result
 - Written in future tense.
- Write a discussion section
 - This section tells you why think your research is important.
 - This section is written in present tense.

Tips for successful proposal writing

- Creating writing routine.
 - Writing at the same time and place improves the writing skills and efficiency.
- Write with a dictionary, thesaurus, style manual on hand.
 - Word has these resources automatically programmed.

Why I need a research proposal

- It is prerequisite for degree
- Needs approval from the committee to start the work
- It conceives the project
- It impresses the senior as a potential researcher
- It serves as a contract between the researcher and funder.
- Personal interest.

What is a research proposal?

- A document with two major objectives:
 - To analyze and synthesize the existing research about particular topic.
 - Describe the researcher's idea for a new study.
- An art which the researcher wants to sell in the market.
 - Buyer needs to take it from the gallery.
 - Suits to buyer's pocket.

Be prepared for

- To make mistakes and to learn.
- To write and rewrite many times.
- To spend many hours looking for information.
- To have your writing criticized.
- To feel confuse and hopeless some times.

When should the research proposal be written?

- Preparation with the flying mind question “Why”?
- In the first few months of first year.
- A substantial amount of work has to be done *before* a proposal can be written
- Some departments assume that a research proposal will be written in first six months.
- Seek advice on your draft from supervisors and peers.

Before start writing

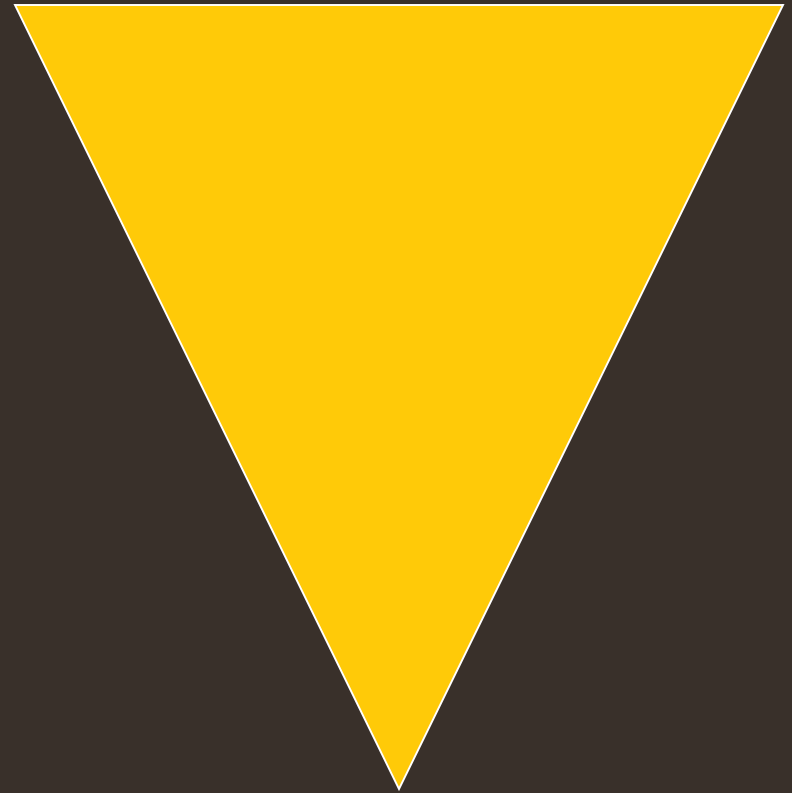
- Do I have the clear research question?
- Have I read broadly and deeply in that area?
- Have I discussed the topic with peers?
- Have I enough time and fund to start?
- Do I feel support from faculty and friends?

What it should contain? It is based on your clear research question.

- What do you want to do?
- Why do you want to do it?
- Why is it important?
- Who has done similar work?
- How are you going to do it?
- How long will it take?

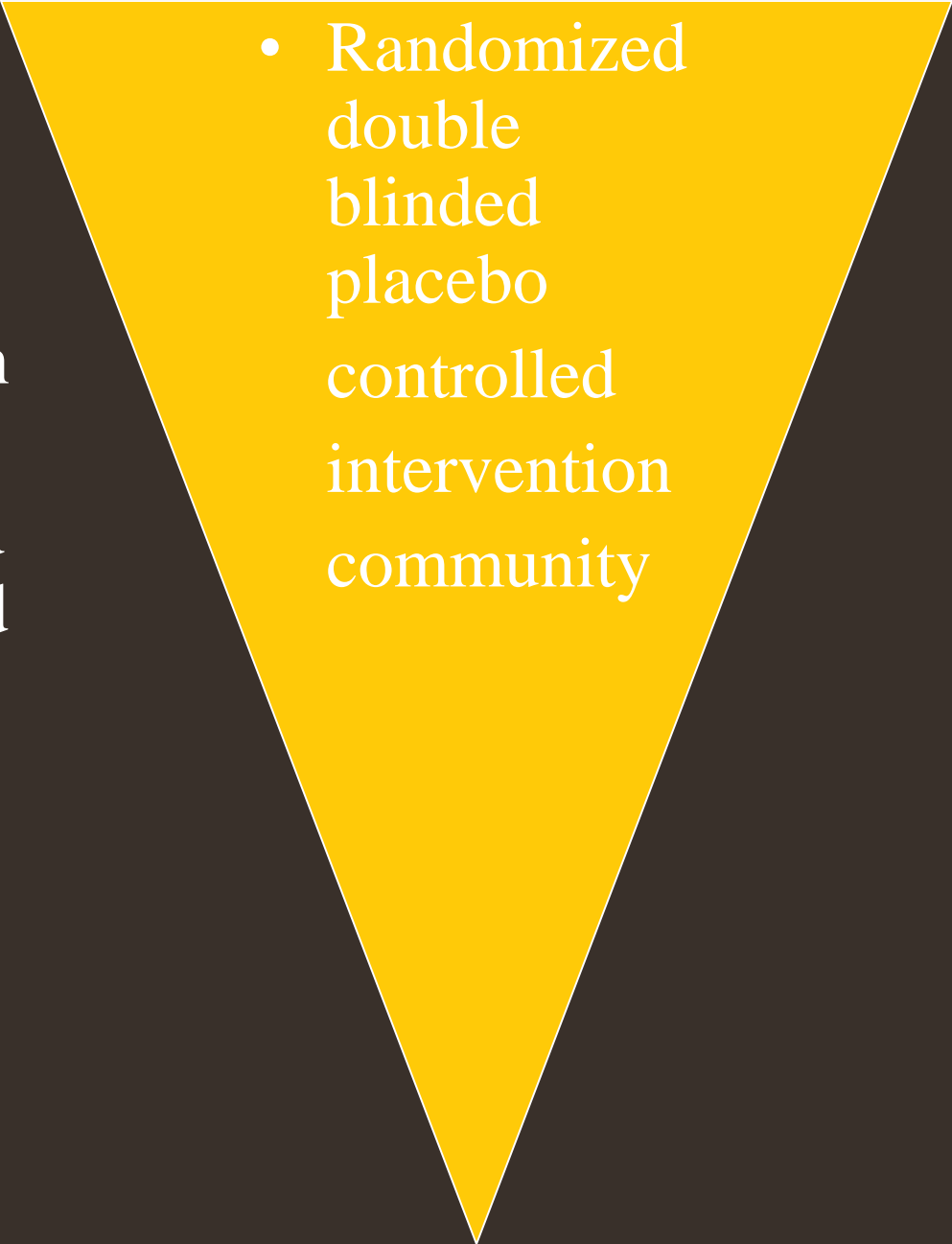
First step: formulation of the research question.

- Subject?
- Topic?
- What I want to observe?
- How I will do this.?
- Concise and descriptive.?
- Reflects the proposal in one sentence.?



Inverted Triangle Model

- Child health
- Respiratory
- Effect of over the counter cough syrup in cough and cold.
- Select the children and give the medicines and observe the effect.
- Effect of cough syrup in reducing the duration of symptoms in children 2 months to 1 year.

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- Randomized
double
blinded
placebo
controlled
intervention
community

Criteria for choosing include

- Access to information
- Access to resources
- Theoretical background
- Value of research
- Is question is big/small
- External requirements
- Overall probability of successful completion
- Personal interest

Second step: Gathering the information

(literature review and reading)

- Computers are one of the researcher's most powerful tool.
 - Online library catalogues.
 - Working papers
 - Journals
 - Bibliographies
 - Database and research-related information.
- Record keeping of the information collected
 - Print outs
 - Reference cards
 - PDA/PC

Third step: Methodology

- Sampling techniques
- Inclusion and exclusion criteria
- Measurement instruments
- Data collection procedures
- Data analysis process
 - Do contact statistician.

What does the methodology section do?

- Shows the reader how it is being set for looking answers to the research question.
- It should reflect the capability of research worker to complete the research work.
- The proposed methods must be appropriate to the type of research work.

Fourth step: Time line

- Important planning tool.
- Helps to establish the competency
- Be realistic: compare with the existing workload; duties

Fifth step: Writing the Proposal

- Collecting the bits and pieces
- **The references** : use an acceptable format

Important information for writing

- Always structure your work in advance.
- Know that you want to say before writing.
- Every sentence must contain one idea only.
- Each sentence must follow logically from the before: chain of ideas.
- Write in a way that is easy to read.
- Use simple language.
- Check spelling and grammar.
- Do not cut and paste from articles.

The Format

- **Front page:** Title, name of the researcher, department.
- **Second page:** content
- **Third page:** Abstract: Not more than 200 words.
- **Fourth – sixth page:** with bold headings: Literature review; hypothesis, methods and materials; data analysis
- **Seventh page:** Discussion
- **Last page:** References: Not more than 10.

Avoid Plagiarism

- Plagiarism is presenting someone else's ideas or words as though they were your own.
 - Loss of year
 - Loosing referee for future.

Tips for successful proposal writing

- Make it simple
 - Avoid pretentious language, unnecessary jargon, and double speak by cutting down every unnecessary word.
- Read your work loud
 - A sentence that is difficult to say will be difficult to read.
- Revise , revise, revise.
- Put an end to it
 - The faster you finish the proposal and submit it the less time you have wasted thinking about writing it.