

Research Proposal Template

Goal: To give clearer shape to the research project you have been envisioning in your mind by—*deliberately prematurely*—trying to persuade someone you've never met to fund and support it.

Review: pp. 108-115 of *Where Research Begins*

Format: Individual

Specifications:

- 4-6 double-spaced pages, 1-inch margins, Times New Roman, 12-point font
- Due in one week (to be submitted to yourself only!)

The questions in *italics* below are illustrative of the types of information to include in each section. Try to answer all the questions, but don't feel limited by them. Include other information you deem essential.

1. Title

2. Contextual Framework (1 page)

- *What is the problem that led you to envision this study, and why do you care about it?*
- *Which other researchers care about that problem, and how have they tried to solve it?*
- *What facts or information are essential to understanding the research problem?*
- *Why should you be the one to undertake this study?*

3. Goals and Objectives (1-2 pages)

- *What are the open-ended research questions you hope to answer?*
- *What facts do you hope to learn?*
- *If you categorize those factual questions, what is the "big" area of concern for each category?*

4. Significance (1 page)

- *If your study is successful, what will we understand or be able to do better?*
- *Which types of researchers do you hope your study will help?*
- *Which types of future study do you hope to inspire?*

5. Project Plan (1-2 pages)

- *What will you actually do while you are researching this study?*
- *When will you do those things?*
- *What are the primary sources you will need, and how will you obtain them?*
- *What obstacles or challenges do you expect to encounter, and how will you overcome them?*
- *What research skills, assets, or capabilities do you have that you will use for this study?*
- *What types of support (financial, research tools, time, labor) will your study require?*
- *How will you determine if and when your study is complete?*
- *How will you share findings of your study?*