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Tips for Writing Successful Research Proposals and Study Objectives

Strategies

- Start right away with the topic and focus of your research (no lengthy personal introduction);

- State the contribution your research will make to the discipline or in terms of its social impact;

- Demonstrate knowledge in the area of your research (brief review of some recent major theories/research);

- Mention research that you have done in this area, if any;

- Show in what way your research connects to the reviewed literature;

- Give some details about what you plan to do;

- State clearly what the expected outcome of your research is.

Structure

- Try not to write more than 1000 words (or two pages);
- Explain your topic and focus, as well as the contribution of your research in no more than two paragraphs;
- Show your breadth of theoretical knowledge/mastery in no more than two paragraph;
- Provide some details of your research plan in no longer than two paragraphs;
- State the expected outcome of your research in no more than one paragraph;
- Keep your paragraphs short, focused, and coherent (no longer than 150 words if possible).

Study objective

- Introduce who you are (S1 and S2 majors and current academic/professional occupation, research interest);
- State why you are interested in this research area and why it is important in the context of your discipline/ social setting;
- Demonstrate your knowledge of the state-of-the-art of the research area/discipline;
- Provide info on how long it will take to finish your study and what steps you plan to take to ensure it;
- State what you future plan is after you complete your study (relevance & contribution).

Study objective

- Everything should fit in no more than one page;
- All sentences and paragraphs must be brief, to the point, and effective;
- The goal is to foreground your knowledge capability in your research area and your ability to complete your study successfully;
- Avoid too many jargons and technical terms; while you need to "show off" what you have, it is essential to do it without intimidating your reader.