

# How to write a research proposal

Turn your 30% proposal acceptance rate into 90% with these 7 key components. Your research could change the world. Here's how to get it off the ground.

## 1. Research Topic: Problem Statement

- Provide the title of your project.
- Clearly define the *problem* or issue your research will focus on.
- Outline the research aims, objectives, and key research questions or hypotheses.

## 2. Background: Study Context

- Explain how the problem or issue originated.
- State why this is an important area to investigate, including both practical and theoretical significance.
- Mention any assumptions underlying your research.
- Define key terms or concepts relevant to your study.
- Describe the limitations and boundaries of your research.

## 3. Literature Review

- Show that you have a broad understanding of the essential studies and debates in your field.
- Summarize the relevant literature with the following elements:
  - What is already known about the topic?
  - Identify gaps that your research will aim to fill.
  - Explain how your study builds upon or differs from previous work. Clearly state why some studies may be outdated or methodologically flawed and how your study offers a more current or robust approach.
  - Consider theoretical frameworks or concepts that will guide your analysis.
  - If you are proposing a new theoretical model or adjusting an existing one, be explicit about how it addresses previous limitations or enhances the current understanding.

## 4. Methodology

- Set up a strong alignment between the research aims and the chosen research strategy.
- Your methodology should include:
  - A description of your research approach (qualitative, quantitative, or mixed) and the rationale behind it.
  - A list of research methods (e.g., survey, case study, ethnography, experimental).
  - Details on how you will collect data (e.g., questionnaires, interviews, focus groups, or documentary analysis).
  - Information on the location and accessibility of your data.
  - The techniques you will use for data analysis and interpretation.
  - Any ethical considerations that may be involved in your research.
  - Potential challenges you anticipate in conducting the research. Discuss how you plan to mitigate these challenges.

## 5. Proposed Timeline

- Key phases, including preparation, data collection, analysis, writing, and revisions.
- Define important milestones
- Allocate time for unexpected delays, such as the need for additional data.

## 6. Resources Required

- Identify the tools, software, personnel, or materials essential to your research.
- Check that the resources are available during the necessary phases of your project.

## 7. Bibliography

- Include a list of select sources relevant to your research proposal.