

SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY
HPRF 295
Activity #5, Research Proposal

The final learning activity for HPRF 295 is the completion of a research proposal. This activity integrates the knowledge gained from course content and learning activities throughout the semester, including the students' ability to gather library resources, classify and critique research articles, and apply knowledge of the research process in designing a research study.

If you have changed your research idea substantially since submitting Learning Activity #4 (the Topic Proposal), please consult with your instructor before completing Activity #5.

The study should be feasible, whether or not the student plans to complete the research as part of their graduate program. That is, the resources and population must be available, and the research plan should be able to be accomplished within the student's capabilities.

The research question(s) should be significant not only to the student, but also to the profession and/or population involved.

The proposal needs to be written using correct grammar and writing skills. It must be formatted according to APA guidelines (double spaced throughout, following citation, reference, margin, and punctuation guidelines). Possible exceptions: Margins and pagination may be done according to Graduate Studies' General Instructions for Master's Thesis. Also, to be consistent with thesis instructions, do not use running head.

The completed proposal will average 16-20 pages (a minimum of 10 and maximum of 20 content pages). Additional pages will be necessary for references and appendices. Recycled paper is fine, but do not use erasable paper.

All pages of the proposal should be fastened securely (with a paper clip or binder clip). The proposal may be placed in a file-folder or manila envelope, but should not be bound in a notebook or plastic holder. Turn in one hard copy to the instructor. REMEMBER TO SUBMIT YOUR PAPER TO TURNITIN.COM

Proposal Format

Title Page

See attached sample for approved format.

Table of Contents

See attached sample for approved format.

Research Problem/Area of Inquiry

Introduce (briefly discuss) the research problem or area of inquiry. State the purpose of your study. Explain the "significance" of the study: why it is important that this research be done.

Research Questions and Definitions

Depending on your chosen research design, state the research question(s) and/or hypotheses, or state the sensitizing questions or "query," (see DePoy & Gitlin, 1994).

If you are studying specific variables, state your operational definitions for those variables.

If you are using terms in your research questions that might be ambiguous, or using terms in a unique way, conceptually define those terms as well. (If you are doing a naturalistic study and the concepts will be derived from analysis of your qualitative data, those conceptual definitions will be part of your "results" section after you have completed your research, not part of the proposal.)

Background/Literature Review

Review the background literature related to your study. Describe the methodology and findings of previous research. Critique studies that both agree and disagree with your assumptions.

Your literature review needs to be current and it should reflect the context for your own study (i.e., how you are building on previous research, or how you are filling gaps in the knowledge base).

Use primary sources as much as possible, and although space is limited in this proposal, your literature review should convey that you know the subject area that you are planning to study.

Theoretical Perspective/Conceptual Framework

Identify the philosophical and/or theoretical perspective that guides your research questions. If your study is based on a specific conceptual framework, concisely explain that framework or model. If your study is not directly testing a theory or is not derived from a conceptual framework, make explicit the philosophical bias or assumptions that have influenced your research plan. (If there is a theoretical framework underlying your research instrument that should be identified.)

Methodology: (Where & how are you going to obtain information, & how are you going to handle the data?) Research Design, Subjects, Sampling, Setting, and Research Procedures

State or describe the design of your research.

Describe who your participants (subjects) will be and how you will recruit them.

Explain the setting in which the research will be conducted.

Identify the instrument(s) or tools that will be used to gather the data.

Describe further how the research will be carried out and how the data will be handled and analyzed.

Discuss limitations of this study that can be anticipated.

References

Reference list must be done according to APA format.

All references must be cited in the text; all sources cited in the text must be in the reference list.

Appendices (Clearly label each appendix.)

Time Line--required.

(Outline/schedule for: update of lit. review; IRB approval, if needed; recruitment of participants; data collection & analysis; and completion of writing)

Budget--may be done in any format and should indicate student's consideration of costs and expected sources of funding. (Your own materials, equipment, and labor may be listed as "in kind" expenses.)

Instrument, survey, demographic sheet, or questionnaire (if used)

Letters requesting permission for use of instruments or agencies (if applicable)

Human Subjects (IRB) application (if applicable)

This can be completed in draft form.

Consent form (if applicable).