

What is a good research proposal?

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Overview

Minimum items

Additional items

Checklist

Minimum items

- **problem, question, hypothesis, or goal**
- **importance of the research**
- **related work (research & practice) with references**
- **central notions with clear definitions**
- **research approach or methodology**
- **potential outcomes**
- **contribution**

Additional items

- abstract
- description of the project where the research will be carried out
- description of the case environment
- limitations or key assumptions
- research procedure
- evaluation of the feasibility of the methodology
- proposed structure for the thesis, with descriptions of chapters or articles
- schedule
- publication plan

Checklist

- 1. Does the proposal show my strengths, experiences, knowledge, interests? Is there any personal touch? Is there imagination?**
- 2. Is the problem stated clearly? What is the form of the problem? (Why? What? How? Where?)**
- 3. What is the motivation for the research? Why is the research important? To whom is it important?**

Checklist

4. Is there enough high quality earlier research on the area?
5. Do I show my knowledge about the practical work on the area of research?
6. What are the limitations in the earlier research and earlier solutions?

Checklist

7. Do I define the central notions clearly?
8. If my research approach is constructive, what am I going to construct? Have I stated it clearly? Why is the construction needed? How do I evaluate the usefulness of the construction?

Checklist

9. Is the chosen methodology feasible? Do I have the resources, facilities, and tools needed? Can the data be collected?
10. How does my work contribute the body of knowledge? Is my work useful? To whom is it useful?
11. Who is/are going to supervise my research?