

# Research Proposal

A research proposal presents a research project that seeks to answer a clearly defined research question. Its goal is to convince the reader of the importance and feasibility of this research project, i.e. that it can be conducted with the specified approach, that it can be supported by enough data, and that it can be accomplished in the required time frame.

This resource is not exhaustive and does not replace the writing instructions given in class. In case of any doubt, consult the professor before structuring your paper as it is indicated here.

## Introduction

**Context:** Get the reader's attention and introduce your topic.

**Thesis:** Present your research question. What do you want to address? What is your position? What sparked your interest for this project?

**Outline:** Show the importance of conducting the proposed research project. What do you want to accomplish? Why is it worthwhile? What new insights will it bring?

## Body

**Literature review:** Prove the validity of your research question. Overall, what does the literature tell you? What is known and unknown? How are the sources similar or different? Which ones are the most convincing? How is your research project innovative? How will it fill the gaps in the literature?

**Theoretical framework:** Specify the viewpoint or angle from which you will address your topic. On what basis are you making your arguments? What assumptions are you bringing to your project? How are they supported by theory? How does your theoretical framework enable you to do address your topic?

**Methodology:** Describe and justify the ways in which you will collect and analyze your data. What kind of methods and analytical tools will you use? What are their strengths and weaknesses? How will they allow you to answer your research question and to draw new or unique conclusions?

**Time frame:** Provide your research plan. What steps will you follow in order to complete your project? When will each step be done?

## Conclusion

**Summary:** Make predictions and explain their significance. What are the expected findings? What would be the significance of these findings?

**Final thought:** Make a final comment that reaffirms the importance of conducting the proposed research project.