

Process in Research Proposal Development

LESSON 1. What is the research proposal?

- ***What is a research proposal?***

- ✓ *It is a detailed plan of your study.*
- ✓ *It is a document which sets out your ideas in an easily accessible way.*
- ✓ *The written proposal is to present a focused and scholarly presentation of a **research problem** and **plan**.*
- ✓ *The objective is to describe **what you will do**, **why it should be done**, **how you will do it**, and **what you expect will result**.*

LESSON 1 - cont'd ...



What a proposal should contain? It is based on your clear research question.

- What do you want to do? – research question
 - Why do you want to do it? – Any information gap
 - Why is it important? – any practical importance or knowledge advancement
 - Who has done similar work? - background
 - How are you going to do it? -methodology
 - How long will it take? – plan of work
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LESSON 1 - cont'd ...

- ***Identifying a research topic - the first step***
- ***The criteria for selecting is:***
 - ✓ ***Relevance/significance***
 - ✓ ***Avoidance of duplication***
 - ✓ ***Urgency of data needed***
 - ✓ ***Feasibility of study***
 - ✓ ***Applicability of results***
 - ✓ ***Your Interest and knowledge to the area***
 - ✓ ***Ethical acceptability***



LESSON 2 - Components of a Research proposal

- *The most logical order of a research proposal development is:*
 - ✓ *Title/research topic*
 - ✓ *Summary/Abstract*
 - ✓ *Introduction/background*
 - ✓ *Objectives*
 - ✓ *Literature review*
 - ✓ *Questions and/or Hypothesis*
 - ✓ *Materials, Methods and procedures*
 - ✓ *Work plan*
 - ✓ *Budget and funding*
 - ✓ *References*
 - ✓ *Appendices/Annexes*



The Format

- **Front page:** Title, name of the researcher, department.
- **Second page:** content
- **Third page:** Abstract: Not more than 200 words.
- **Fourth - sixth page:** with bold headings: Introduction, Literature review; hypothesis, methods and materials; data analysis
- **Seventh page:** Discussion
- **Last page:** References: Not more than 10.

LESSON 2 - Components of a Research proposal

- **Title** – *the fewest possible words that adequately describe the contents of the study.*

- ✓ *It is a label; not a sentence*
- ✓ *It shouldn't contain any abbreviations*
- ✓ *The title page has no page number and is not counted.*



LESSON 2 - Components of a Research proposal

- *Summary/Abstract* – a one page brief summary of the thesis proposal.
 - ✓ *It show that your work fits with the topic*
 - ✓ *It show what a contribution your work will make.*
 - ✓ *It should specify the research question and how it is going to be answered.*
 - ✓ *Do not put any information not stated in the main text.*
 - ✓ *Never contain references, figures and tables.*
 - ✓ *It comes first but written last.*



LESSON 2 - Components of a Research proposal

- *Introduction/Background* – background information of the research proposal.
 - ✓ *It establishes a framework for the research show what a contribution your work will make.*
 - ✓ *It should motivate the reader to read the whole paper*
 - ✓ *Should site the most recent and relevant works, and should explain why work is required.*

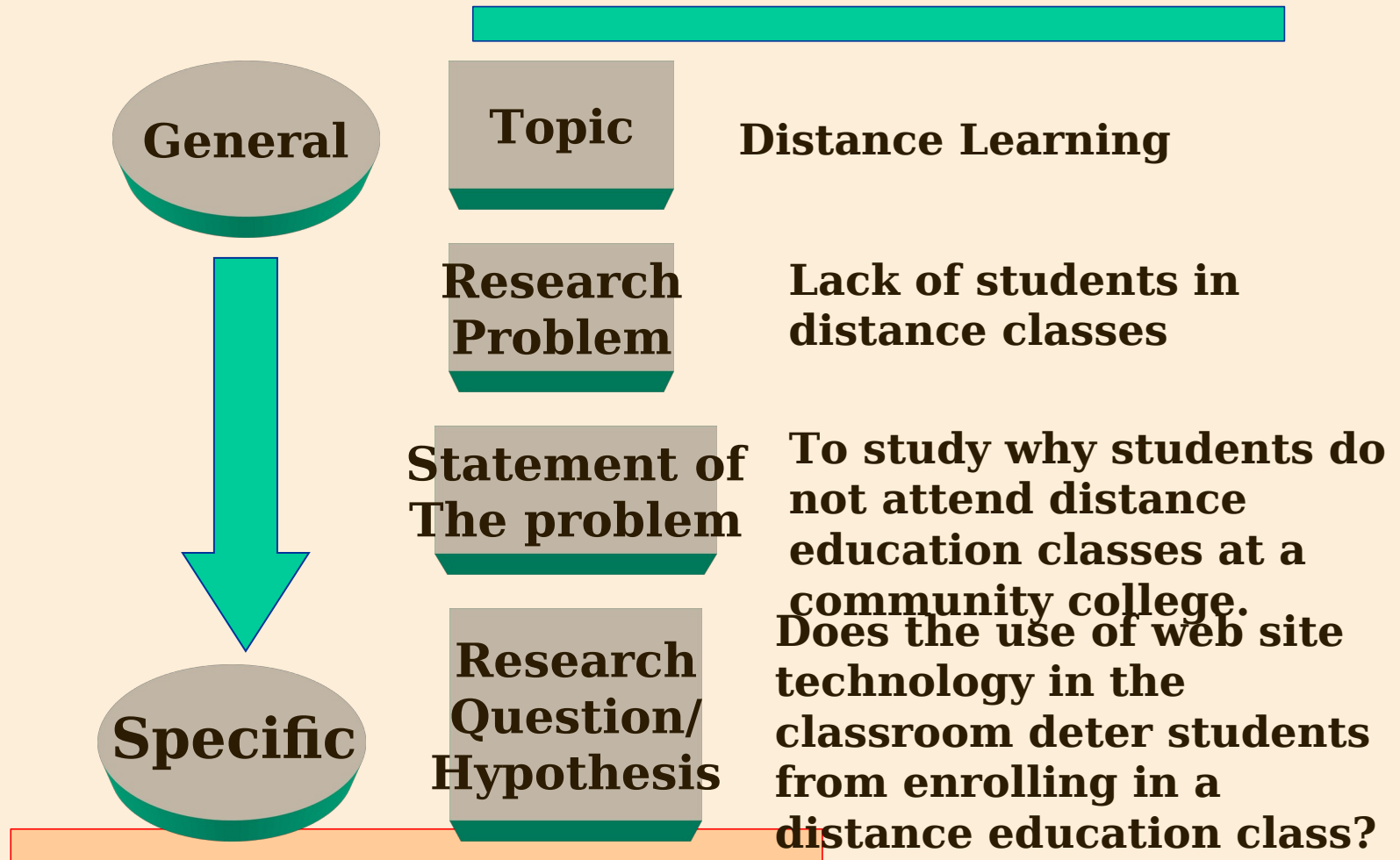


LESSON 2 - Components of a Research proposal

- *Statement of the problem* – the issue that leads to a need for the study.
 - ✓ It answer the question ‘Why does this research be conducted?’
 - ✓ The foundation for everything to follow in the proposal.



Differences Among Topic, Problem, Purpose and Questions



LESSON 2 - Components of a Research proposal

- *Objective/aim of the study* – aim which the enquirer seeks to bring about as a result of completing the research.
 - ✓ Objectives should be simple, specific, stated in advance, stated using action verbs
 - ✓ Objectives can be classified into:
 - General objective – showing what exactly to be studied, and states the desired outcomes from the study.
 - Specific objectives – shows in greater detail the specific aims of the research project.



LESSON 2 - Components of a Research proposal

- *Literature review* – a description of the literature very relevant to your study.
 - ✓ Gives an overview of what has been said, who the key authors in the area are, what are the prevailing theories and hypothesis, etc.
 - ✓ Relevant materials could be from books, journal articles, theses and dissertations, government reports, etc.
- Be very careful to check your sources when doing your literature review.
- Many trade magazines are not peer reviewed.





What is the Process of Conducting a Literature Review?

- Identify key terms
 - Locate literature
 - Critically evaluate and select the literature
 - Organize the literature
 - Write a review
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LESSON 2 - Components of a Research proposal

- *Questions and/or Hypothesis* – the speculative proposition of the problem statement.
 - ✓ *Hypothesis is a derivation of a particular assertion or prediction. It is subject to test for confirmation or reject.*
 - ✓ *Question is an interrogative statement that can be answered by data.*

Does the use of web site technology in the classroom deter students from enrolling in a distance education class?

The use of web site technology in the classroom deter students from enrolling in a distance education class.

Question

Hypothesis

LESSON 2 - Components of a Research proposal

- *Materials and methods, and procedures* – a detail description of the activities and the methodological steps you will take achieve your objectives.
- *Depending upon the type of study, it includes:*
 - ✓ *Description of study area, study design and study participants*
 - ✓ *Sampling technique and sample size used*
 - ✓ *Methods of data collection*
 - ✓ *Method (s) of data analysis, etc.*



LESSON 2 - Components of a Research proposal

- *Study design:*

Depending upon the type of study, it could be:

- ✓ *Observational studies – the researchers stand apart from events taking place in the study*
- ✓ *Experimental/intervention studies – the investigator tests the effect of an intervention on the events taking place in the study.*



LESSON 2 - Components of a Research proposal

- **Work plan** – a schedule that summarizes the different components of a research proposal and how they will be implemented. Here,
 - ✓ Different phase/components of the study should be stated
 - ✓ Describe the activities in each phase.
 - ✓ Indicate time frame to accomplish the various aspects of the study.
 - ✓ Could be presented in table, chart or graph.



LESSON 2 - Components of a Research proposal

- *Budget and funding* – the cost of conducting research.
 - ✓ *Budget items need to be explicitly stated with justification*
 - ✓ *Costs are typically:*
 - *Direct costs – personnel, consumable supplies, equipments, travel, publication, etc.*
 - *Indirect costs – overhead and administrative costs.*



LESSON 2 - Components of a Research proposal

- **References** – citation of all the information that you obtain in the literature of conducting research.
 - ✓ The style of writing list of references varies from one discipline to another.



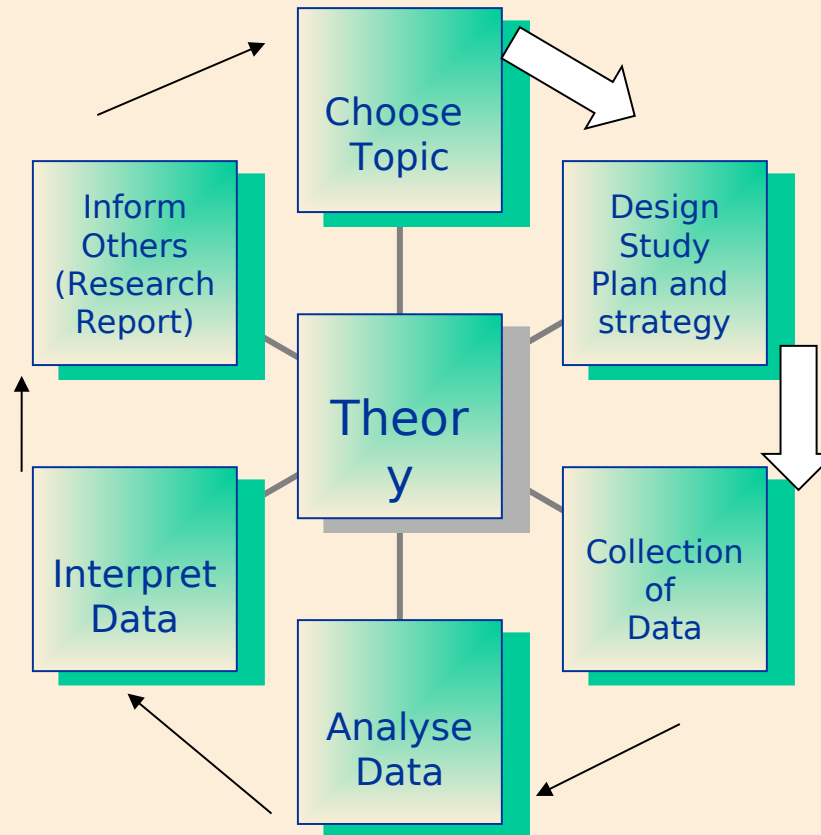
LESSON 2 - Components of a Research proposal

- *Appendices/annexes* – additional information provided for the reader. These include, for example,
 - ✓ Dummy tables
 - ✓ Biographical data
 - ✓ Questionnaire, forms, etc.



Summary

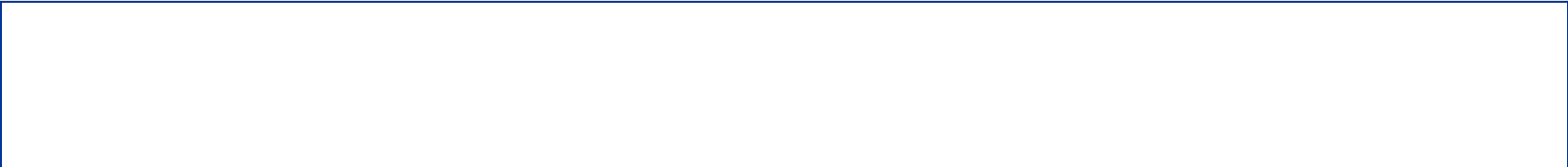
Cycle of Research





Before start writing

-  Do I have the clear research question?
 -  Have I read broadly and deeply in that area?
 -  Have I discussed the topic with peers?
 -  Have I enough time and fund to start?
 -  Do I feel support from faculty and friends?
- 



In proposal writing, be ready for

- To make mistakes and to learn.
 - To write and rewrite many times.
 - To spend many hours looking for information.
 - To have your writing criticized.
 - To feel confuse and hopeless some times.
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Tips for successful proposal writing

- Make it simple
 - Avoid showy language, unnecessary jargon, and double speak by cutting down every unnecessary word.
- Read your work loud
 - A sentence that is difficult to say will be difficult to read.
 - Each sentence must follow logically from the before: chain of ideas.
 - Every sentence must contain one idea only.
- Revise , revise, revise.
 - Check spelling and grammar.
- Put an end to it
 - The faster you finish the proposal and submit it, the less time you have wasted thinking about writing it.



Thank you

