
A research proposal should: (John Staatz)

- State **WHAT** the research questions are
- Explain **WHY** the research question are important
- Identify the **KNOWLEDGE GAP** your research will fill concerning the research questions
- Tell **HOW** you intend to address the research questions
- What theory and models will guide your analysis
- What hypotheses you will test
- What specific methods you will use to test the hypotheses
- State **WHAT KINDS OF CONCLUSIONS** you anticipate
3. Thesis/Dissertation Research Proposal Outline: (Rick Bernsten)

I. Introduction
   o Background
     ➢ Provide information about the issues/problem setting
   o Justification
     ➢ Why is the research important?
     ➢ Why is there a need to conduct additional research (knowledge gaps) on this issue/problem?

II. Objectives & Research Questions
   o Objectives
     ➢ General Objectives—describe your general objectives
     ➢ Specific objectives—describe your specific objectives
   o Research Questions/hypotheses—describe the research questions you plan to address (as noted in the research matrix)

III. Literature Review—discuss literature that guides your research
IV. Research Methods
(i.e., methods to achieve your objectives/answer research questions)

- What model(s) will you use?
- What specific data will you use?
- How will you analyze these data?

V. Timetable—when & where you will collect your data

VI. Budget—what the study will cost (list each cost item)

References

Appendices
- Research Planning Matrix
- Questionnaires/Key informant interviews
  (i.e., describe each questionnaire, including specific types of data each will be used to collect)