Writing a Proposal

January 2024
Overview

- What is a research proposal?
- Formulating a research question
- Some important considerations
- Elements of a research proposal
- Other things to include
- Length and format
- Style guides
What is a research proposal?

A clear and comprehensive statement of a research question that you intend to study in order to find out, demonstrate, document, or prove something worth knowing.
**Formulating a research question**

- The research question should be clear, focused, and interesting
- The scope of the project should be realistic
- The researcher should have the training, time, and resources needed to answer the question
Some important considerations

- Why is the research needed?
- What is known about the topic?
- Who are the experts?
- How will the research be conducted?
- Is the research ethical?
Elements of a research proposal

- Introduction → state the research question
- Lit review → situate your research
- Rationale → why is the research needed?
- Methodology → how will you do the research?
- Organization → chapter or section summaries
Other things to include

- Title page ➔ use our template
- Bibliography ➔ primary & secondary sources
- Ethics approval statement if you will be working with human subjects
  https://www.uwo.ca/research/ethics/human/index.html
- Appendices or other illustrative material as needed
Length and format

- PhD/DMA thesis → 20–25 pages
- DMA Research Paper → 4–5 pages
- 12 pt typeface, double-spaced, paginated
  https://www.grad.uwo.ca/about_us/regulations/index.html

- Format:
  1. Title page (title, date, supervisor or director, second reader)
  2. Body with section headings (20-25 pages or 4-5 pages)
  3. Bibliography
  4. Any supplemental material
Style guides

  https://www-chicagomanualofstyle-org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/home.html

- *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (Turabian), 9th edition


  https://doi-org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/10.1632/ORIW5168