

## SAMPLE RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Your research proposal should be written in APA format and should address or answer the relevant questions below each heading. Make sure you write each section in the appropriate verb tense and refer to the APA Manual to confirm the inclusion of the appropriate information in each section.

### Cover Page

\*Running Head

\*Page Header

\*Title, Author, Institution

### Introduction

Your first sentence of your introduction should identify the research problem. This sentence or two should address why the research is important and what you are hoping to accomplish. What is the problem under investigation?

Next, you should complete a literature review. Your review of the literature should only include the most recent or relevant articles. Through the use of previous research, you should develop the general background of the research problem and identify research holes to show how your experiment can further research in the field. Make sure you include your hypothesis in this section, as well as, the ***independent and dependent variables***. Lastly, identify your research design.

**\*Helpful Hint:** Make index cards to organize all of your references. It is a good idea to include the following information:

Authors \_\_\_\_\_

Article Title \_\_\_\_\_

Periodical Title \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Volume \_\_\_\_\_ Pages \_\_\_\_\_

Independent Variable(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Dependent Variable(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Hypotheses \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Conclusions \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Any Extra Information \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### *Dependent Variable:*

- \*What behavior are you going to measure?
- \*How often are you going to measure the behavior?
- \*What is the type of observation?
- \*What is the recording method? How will data be recorded?

### *Independent Variable/Subject Variable:*

- \*What are you going to manipulate?
- \*Describe (in detail) the levels of the independent variable.
- \*What variables are controlled?
- \*How are they presented?
- \*How long will they be presented?
- \*What instructions will the participant receive?
- \*Who will give the instructions?
- \*Who will be present when the behavior is measured?

### **Method**

In this section you should discuss how you are going to meet the goals discussed in the introduction. This portion of the proposal is broken down further into questions you should answer within each subsection.

### ***Participants***

- \*Who are your participants going to be? (i.e., What is the gender, age education, race, etc. of your participants?)
- \*How many participants are you going to have?
- \*How are you going to recruit them?
- \*How are you going to assign them to groups?
- \*How are you going to compensate them?
- \*What criteria will you use for participation in your project?

### ***Apparatus/Materials***

- \*What apparatus are you going to use?
- \*What materials are you going to use?
- \*Are you going to administer any psychological tests? If so, which ones?
- \*Are there any special supplies you require?
- \*Do you need an apparatus or device to observe or record behavior?

## ***Procedure***

- \*What is your research design?
- \*What will happen in your experiment?
- \*Where is your study going to take place? (Describe where the data will be collected)

## **Results**

- \* What data will be collected?
- \*Are there any criteria for inclusion of data?
- \*How will the data be summarized, that is, what descriptive statistics will you use?
- \*What inferential statistics will you use?
- \*What will the significance level be?

## **Implications**

- \*What will be the implications of the results if your hypotheses are confirmed?
- \*What will be the implications of the results if your hypotheses are not confirmed?

## **References**

- \*This is your reference list of literature cited in the proposal.