

TOOL



ONE PAGE RESEARCH PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Once students have developed a research question, they are ready to start preparing a research proposal. The first step in this process is to draft out the possible shape of the study. This often occurs while the student is reviewing associated literature and reading about the available approaches and methods that may suit the planned research. An over-emphasis on literature review at this stage can often, however, be to the detriment of:

- crafting the practical dimensions of the study,
- clarifying what it focuses on, and
- clarifying how it will be done.

The following format for a One-page Research Proposal Summary helps students to focus by gaining a clear idea of the proposed direction of the study on one page. The aim is to capture the essence of the project, rather than produce many pages that often obscure the structure of the study. This format can be modified for diverse disciplines, so that students can:

- make a short statement to supervisors about their intended study, or
- compare the options that are confronting them at that time.

One-page Research Proposal Summary	
Title An exploration of...	Focus, location, participants, processes, goals.
Purpose of Study This study will...do what and produce what	
Justification Why spend the time – what is the need and value? Why I can complete it – my knowledge and network.	
Academic Objective The study will contribute to what field of study? What are key theories and concepts in the field?	
Practical Objective This study will contribute to...What problem	
Research Questions/Hypotheses What is happening? What is the impact? What is working?	
Research Design What research approach - why? What sample? What is the unit of analysis?	
Research Method Collect what from who how when and where?	Case study – survey – record scan – observation – focus groups – interviews- secondary data



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Original Source: <http://researchsupervisiontoolkit.com/page/rst-ebook> (C2.2 Outlining a possible shape for the study)

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Modified Version Source: <http://www.dissertationsupervision.org/>