Research Proposals

A research proposal …

- indicates your intention for the research
- justifies the need for the research
- persuades the reader that your proposal
    - has been informed by previous research
    - addresses a gap in the existing body of knowledge on the topic
    - has clear aims and objectives
    - has robust research design and addresses ethical issues
    - is feasible and that you can do it

Before you start your proposal, consider:

- What is the research gap this research will address?
- What is the research question/problem/hypothesis?
- What is the thesis (argument)?
- What are the ethical issues to be considered?
- What is the paradigm for the thesis, e.g., constructivist, intperpretivist, postivist, etc?
- What is the methodological framework, i.e., quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods, indigenous?
- What are the relevant underpinning concepts, definitions, theories, or models?
- What methods will be employed to address the research question/problem/hypothesis?
    - What type of data will be collected, e.g., qualitative, quanititative, etc?
    - Will there be participants, and if so, how will these be selected, e.g., random sampling, snowball sampling, purposive sampling, etc?
    - How will the data be collected, e.g., observation, questionnaire/survey, interview, focus group, etc?
    - How will the data be analysed, e.g., statistical analysis, thematic analysis, etc?
- What is your worldview, perspective, or belifes and values that may impact on interpretation of results?
- Are there any research biases in the research design to acknowledge?

Research Proposal Sections

Introduction

- outline the topic, problem area, or issue

- provide background and contextual information to the research topic

- add the significance/contribution of the proposed study to this area of research

Literature Review

- refer to the *Organising and Synthesising Literature for an Assignment* study guide

- synthesise and critique current research on the topic, highlighting common and divergent perspectives, research outcomes, and research methods

- establish your proposed research in the context of the existing literature

- point to the gap in the current body of knowledge that your research will address

Research Design

- identify and **justify** the choice of research paradigm and research design, e.g., interpretivist, constructivist, positivist, etc.

- discuss advantages and disadvantages of the research design

Methodology

- Outline and **justify** details of the research methodology, incuding (as appropriate)
  - participants
    - participant group characteristics
    - participant selection/sampling method and limitations of the method
  - data collection
    - process of data collection. Consider
      - what data will be collected?
      - where you will collect the data?
      - when will you collect the data?
      - who will collect the data?
      - how will you collect the data?
    - data collection tools
    - issues of rigour/truth and value., e.g.,
      - validity and reliability for quantitative research
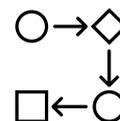
- credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability for qualitative research
- kaupapa Maōri for indigenous research
  - data analysis
    - the established method of data analysis you will use (e.g., statistical analysis, thematic analysis, etc.), including advantages and limitations
    - data analysis tools, e.g., computer programmes such as SPSS or AI tools.

Ethics

- identify who will approve the research
- focus on ethical aspects such as how your research and your research method addresses and relates to The Treaty of Waitangi–Te Tiriti o Waitangi, potential benefits, and risks/harm. For example, consider the Tiriti principles, storage of data, data sovereignty, informed consent, confidentiality, anonymity, privacy, right to withdraw from the study, communication of research findings, etc.

Timeline

- Provide a realistic timeline identifying when you expect to complete each part of the research, including literature review, data collection, data analysis, andwrite up?

Budget

- State expenses you will incur to complete the research, e.g., printing, travel costs, purchase of collection tools, etc.