

# How To Write A Research Proposal For A Dissertation Or Thesis (With Examples)

Make use of some referencing software. We've got how to videos on both Mendeley and Zotero. I'm quite a big fan of Mendeley - I'll include the links to those below this video. One point to make about this reference section is that you shouldn't fall into the trap of thinking that your references and referencing only happens in the literature review section. Your referencing should happen pretty much throughout all the sections that we've discussed. So in your introduction you'll be speaking about context you'll be speaking about the theoretical need for your research. Make sure that you have tons of references there. In your methodological section, you're going to be talking about what you've decided to do in terms of methods, what you've decided to do in terms of [research paper writing help](#). Again those decisions need to be backed up with some sort of justification and those justifications should be built on some theory. So you should have references, you should have citations. Make sure that you have a flow of citations throughout the document and therefore a solid reference list in your research proposal. Don't let these things only sit in the literature review section. Right, so that's referencing. Let's get on to the final ingredient and that is ingredient number six. Ingredient number six is practicalities. Practicalities can be a few different things that can vary from school to school, university to university. For practicalities, I'm bundling a few different things into ingredient number six. Essentially we're talking about anything that relates to the practical components, the implementation, the pulling off of your research project. Some of the things that you might look at here are, for example, a project plan. This might be something like a Gantt chart or some sort of project plan, whether that's just in Excel or any sort of project planning software. A clear outline of what is it that you're going to do through the various phases of your research paper writing help. How are you going to do it, how much time are you going to spend on X, how much time you're going to spend on Y, what buffers have you put in, have you allowed for communication with your supervisor or adviser? Basically just showing that you have given clear thought to how you're going to pull this thing off and that your plan is reasonable and achievable within the time that you have. So a project plan is something that you might have a look at here. Another component is a resource plan or a budget. Not every piece of research will necessarily require additional resources, but some pieces of research will require a budget, will require some sort of financial resources and some of them might require physical resources such as lab equipment. Or you might need access to two rooms to have focus groups etc. So, again, what you want to show here is that you've given thought to what it is that you need in order to pull off your research and how you're going to get that and potentially what you're going to do if you can't get that. What are your backup plans? Another thing that you might want to look at here or you might be required to look at here is risk management. So as I've just mentioned you'll have a need for resources, you'll have a need for budgetary requirements, potentially you'll have a project plan that you're working with. All of these things are ideals. They're there if everything goes right - but that's not how it works in the real world. So you want to potentially present a risk management plan, or at least just a risk register to show that you are aware of what the potential risks are, the potential things that could fall through and most importantly what are your plans if those do fall through. What are your responses to the potential risks in your instance? Give some thought to how things might not go according to plan and what you'll do in those in those events. A final thing that might be required is some sort of discussion about ethical adherence. Universities always have ethical standards or ethical compliance requirements in terms of any research that's done under their banner and so you should provide some discussion of how your research paper writing help will comply with those ethical guidelines or ethical requirements - and if there are any potential issues how you're going to deal with them, how you're going to seek approval for any specific requirements. So make sure that you cover those potential bases in terms of the practicalities of your research. So those are the six essential ingredients of how to write a winning dissertation or thesis proposal. Before we wrap up I just want to touch on three additional tips that are useful to keep in mind when you are writing up your proposal. The first thing I'll say is make sure that you have really thought

things through. In other words, make sure that you have undertaken the homework in terms of research literature review, understanding what is the state of the research, understanding where are things currently, what is the need for the research? Make sure that you really have spent your time and have a very clear argument for why your research is necessary. If you haven't spent your time in the literature review stage, if you haven't spent your time familiarizing yourself with the literature, it's very easy to get caught out by a supervisor or an adviser that knows the area and will very quickly say "oh but so-and-so already covered this" or "your arguments invalid because this was already discussed". So you really need to know your stuff in terms of the literature. If you're covering a topic, make sure you understand that topic well before you start making claims about where the gaps in the literature are and how your research is warranted. Make sure that you understand those components and the same applies for your research methodology, for your research design. I touched on this earlier - make sure you understand the methodology that you plan to use. Don't take a half-baked idea or half-baked understanding and trial it without a methodological plan or a research design. Know your stuff. The second tip is don't rush. So this sounds pretty obvious, but it's important to say. Research proposals usually take some time to get approved and that can be anything from a few days to a few weeks and not uncommonly a month to get approval on research because the university needs to allocate it to suitable supervisors, etc. So there is a long lead time in terms of getting your research approved and students tend to rush through this process and then they don't know their stuff (as per my previous point) and then they end up submitting something, waiting a month and then getting a no. This is (1) soul-destroying and (2) putting a serious delay on completion of the dissertation - it can leave you with very little time to actually complete the research. Naturally, we live in a world of deadlines and you need to adhere to those, but don't rush through this thing. Take the time to really understand the state of the literature and really understand what it is that you're proposing. Very often students come with a preconceived idea of what they want to research without having done the literature review. They end up rushing through it just kind of picking up the pieces of the literature that support the argument. They rush through because they have an idea that they're already in love with and they really just want to get a research proposal approved. Then of course that falls on its face. So don't rush - take the time to understand the literature. Take the time to understand whatever research design you're gonna do or consult with someone that can really confirm that for you and don't rush through this thing. Put in the time and effort and aim for first-time approval rather than pushing a half-baked thing through and then getting pushed back on that - and then having to go back and forth back and forth until you finally get approval and then land up with a very small amount of time to actually do your dissertation or thesis. The last tip is that you should ensure that whatever you submit is well polished. What I mean by well polished is apart from everything I've just discussed, make sure that your entire product is well designed that it's clean and accurate in terms of English language, in terms of grammar, in terms of presenting clear lines of argument, etc. I would really suggest that you invest in some sort of editing or proofreading or at least just get someone else to - just a friend - to proofread your work. But make sure that you are not submitting something that has typos, that has grammar issues, that has a weak English because there is just nothing more off-putting to a marker than reading a document that's full of those errors. What it just says is the student hasn't really put in the time and the effort and therefore it sends signals about how much time and effort they put into actually understanding the research proposal, or understanding the research problem, understanding the literature etc etc. So sloppy presentation brings into question the credibility and the legitimacy of everything else you've done. So my final tip is make sure your document is polished. You might want to, if you have the resources, you might want to get someone to edit and to proofread it and pay them for it. Or you might just want to ask a friend for a favor. Generally any set of second eyes will spot things that you didn't spot. So you might not have a perfect document, but you'll definitely have something improved. There you have it how to write a dissertation or thesis proposal in six pretty straightforward steps, or at least six essential ingredients. As I said right upfront, make sure that you understand the why of the research proposal. Make sure you understand what you're trying to convince the person on the other end of. If you if you keep that front of mind, you're going to present or you're going to develop a solid research proposal and you're going to have the best chances of first-time approval. If you have any questions about how to write a research proposal for your dissertation or thesis, you're welcome to drop us an email

hello@grad.coach. I'll include that email address in this video, or below this video. You're also welcome to book a free consultation with any of our PhD qualified research specialists and you can have a chat with them about your research topic your research questions etc. Hopefully they can provide you with with some guidance there - free of charge, no obligation. Lastly if you've enjoyed this video, please do give us a thumbs up, leave a comment below. If you have any questions you're welcome to comment below as well and subscribe to our YouTube channel for more dissertation thesis related content. We will be doing additional videos on how to write a research proposal, how to write a literature review, all of these components that will hopefully help you write your research and help you pull off a great piece of work. So we do hope to see you again - that's all for today - this is Grad Coach signing out.