

Research Proposal

##% of final grade

The Task:

Select a communication-related topic and that has been studied using quantitative methods. For purposes of this assignment pretend you have been asked by an eminent scholar to suggest what additional research should be undertaken. Because you will be writing for a eminent scholar, you should write in an appropriate, scholarly style (see *General Specifications*, below).

Before you begin to write:

First locate, read, and understand at least three quantitative research studies that have something in common – a common topic, or a common independent variable, or a common dependent variable, etc. Use only articles from academic journals; do not use excerpts from textbooks, or articles from newspapers, magazines, or websites. For the purposes of this assignment you may assume that these three articles constitute the entire existing body of knowledge about your topic. After you have read the articles, think of what additional research might be done to either a) fill a gap in existing knowledge, b) solve some practical problem, or c) extend or improve on existing research. This additional research is what you will propose.

Contents:

Your research proposal should include the following four sections. With the exception of the introduction, start each section with a heading (see sample Research Recap).

a) introduction

Briefly state the topic of your proposal. Give your reader a brief description of what your articles have in common and why anyone should care about what the articles say. This section should be very brief - probably a single, well-written paragraph. (*Note: According to APA style, there is no heading stating “introduction.” The first part of your manuscript is assumed to be the introduction.*)

b) brief literature review

Recap the findings of the three studies, giving your reader the general idea of what methods were employed and what results were found. Keep your literature review focused on things that relate to your proposal. For example, if you are proposing research on the effect of high-pitched voices on oral persuasiveness and one of the studies you review examines voice pitch, voice volume, and eye contact; you would include only the findings that relate to your topic, pitch. Try to weave the studies together to help your reader get an idea of what the combined work tells us. This section should be one to two pages in length.

c) future research

For this section, briefly tell your reader what knowledge gap needs to be filled, problem needs to be solved, or what extension of the existing research needs to be pursued. Name the variables (independent and dependent) that such future research would examine. This section should be less than one page in length.

d) references

List your references according to the APA format. Include references for the three studies as well as any other works that you cited in your paper. It is important that every source that you cite is listed in your “references,” and that each of the works listed in the “references” section has been cited in your paper.

General Specifications:

Your recap should be 3-4 pages (not including the title page); printed on standard 8½ by 11 paper, 12 pt. Times Roman font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins all around. A limit of four pages will be strictly enforced. Citations and references must conform to APA format—do not include an abstract, or running head. Format the title page in the same manner as the sample Research Recap. Also, for this assignment, the “References” section does not have to start a new page, as long as all of the references are on the same page.

Due Date: ##/##/##

Low Stakes Scaffolding Assignments

A.

After instruction on a) finding scholarly articles in the library's databases, and b) APA format conventions

Find three quantitative studies, on a single sheet of paper indicate your topic followed by listing of your articles using proper APA reference format. (see sample)

B.

After instruction on finding relevant elements for inclusion in a literature review

For one of your articles, first determine which elements are relevant to your research proposal, then write a brief review of those elements. (1-2 paragraphs; see sample)

C.

After instruction on synthesis

Using two of your articles, find one point of topical commonality between the two. Write one or two paragraphs explaining how the authors agree or differ. (see sample)